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CCL 24/11/2020 – ADOPTION OF THE 2025 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

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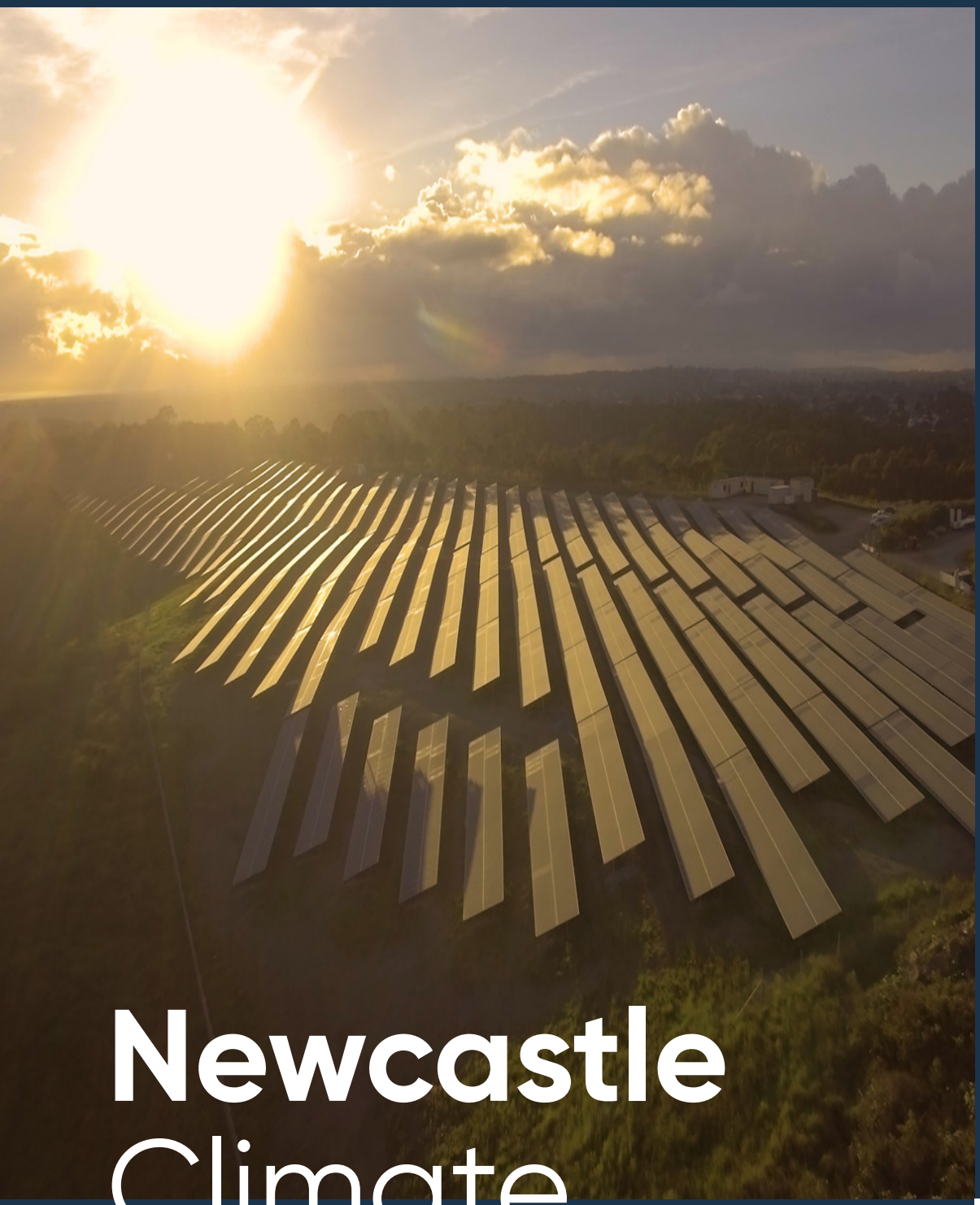
ITEM-84 **Attachment A:** 2025 Climate Action Plan



Newcastle Climate Action Plan

2021 – 2025

newcastle.nsw.gov.au

City of Newcastle

Acknowledgement

City of Newcastle acknowledges that we operate on the grounds of the traditional country of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing relationship with the land and waters, and that they are the proud survivors of more than two hundred years of dispossession. City of Newcastle reiterates its commitment to address disadvantages and attain justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this community.

We are committed to contributing towards achievement of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We have adopted the SDGs and New Urban Agenda as cornerstones for our planning.

In September 2015, Australia was one of 193 countries, to commit to the SDGs. These goals provide a global roadmap for all countries to work towards a better world for current and future generations.

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Message from the Lord Mayor

Nuatali Nelmes

City of Newcastle is a proudly forward thinking and progressive Council that has long led the way, by working in partnerships to develop and implement strategies and initiatives to tackle climate change head on.

In January 2020, we delivered on the commitments of our 2011 Carbon and Water Management Action Plan and became the first NSW Council to be powered by 100 per cent renewable electricity. Our transformation to a sustainable city will continue under this new Climate Action Plan. Over the course of the last decade, the City has made significant and sustained progress in limiting its carbon emissions and working with the community on mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change.

City of Newcastle recognises that there is a global climate emergency and an urgent need for real action on climate change. As a City, we have formally committed to the principles and targets of the Paris Climate Agreement. It is a major challenge to develop and maintain resilient and liveable cities in the face of climate change, global economic shifts and technological change. Cities must deliver and manage the infrastructure, industries and actions required, to successfully make their low carbon transition while ensuring that those most impacted by this change are supported, retrained and provided opportunities for a just transition in a new economy.

Our guiding principles include considering the long term and cumulative effects of actions on future generations, embedding the principles of ecologically sustainable development and incorporating the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a cornerstone of our planning. Focusing on continuous evaluation and improvement and through strong and consistent actions to reduce our emissions, City of Newcastle is now recognised as a leading local government authority when it comes to implementing initiatives to address climate change.

Having successfully navigated previous economic transformations, Newcastle must position itself to take full advantage of an emerging low carbon economy. Through supporting areas such as low emissions technologies, zero emission industries, renewable hydrogen and ammonia export hubs, green metal and minerals processing and large-scale renewables, Newcastle has the opportunity to be a leading global centre for clean technology innovation.

By supporting residents, business and industry to act more sustainably, encourage local resilience and build a circular economy based on local sourcing, production, manufacturing and consumption of materials, the City can continue to build a prosperous, healthy, equitable and sustainable community and propel Newcastle towards a net zero emissions future.

Message from the CEO

Jeremy Bath

Cities are responsible for the vast majority of global emissions and also provide the biggest opportunity for action to mitigate the effects of climate change. While there is much focus on the actions of international, federal and state governments, there is a significant amount that can be done to tackle climate change at the local government level. Through urban planning and advocacy, councils have the power to reduce the impact of carbon-intensive operations on our communities.

In Newcastle, we're doing things smarter and more sustainably. As a vulnerable coastal community, addressing the challenges of a changing climate is vital for the future wellbeing of our residents and economy.

Over the past ten years, City of Newcastle has delivered innovative and award winning education programs, a Hunter-wide business energy efficiency program, made our buildings more energy efficient, installed solar PV and battery storage, upgraded thousands of street lights to LED, planted thousands of new street and park trees to address urban flooding and urban heat island, and built a five megawatt solar farm on a closed landfill site. We are also building an advanced organics processing facility to revolutionise food and garden waste treatment. These actions not only save millions of dollars in operational costs but also significantly reduce our carbon emissions.

In developing this new Climate Action Plan, City of Newcastle has looked to global best practice examples and reshaped them for our local context, engaging with the community and focusing on action to lead Newcastle through complex but unavoidable challenges.

While we still have much to do in reducing emissions in our own operations, we also need to work closely with Newcastle businesses, industry and the community to help drive change and transition to a net zero emissions city.

Rapid decarbonisation will require leading by example and using every lever available to us, such as encouraging sustainable transport options (including active and public transport), accelerating the uptake of electric transport and continuing the rollout of public electric vehicle charging stations. We will also focus on smarter use of energy and other resources using the best available technology, helping to build new markets for low emissions products and materials and demonstrating both the environmental and local economic benefits of acting more sustainably.

City of Newcastle is committed to creating a safe climate future, working collaboratively, sharing knowledge and experience and advocating for new sustainable economic opportunities.

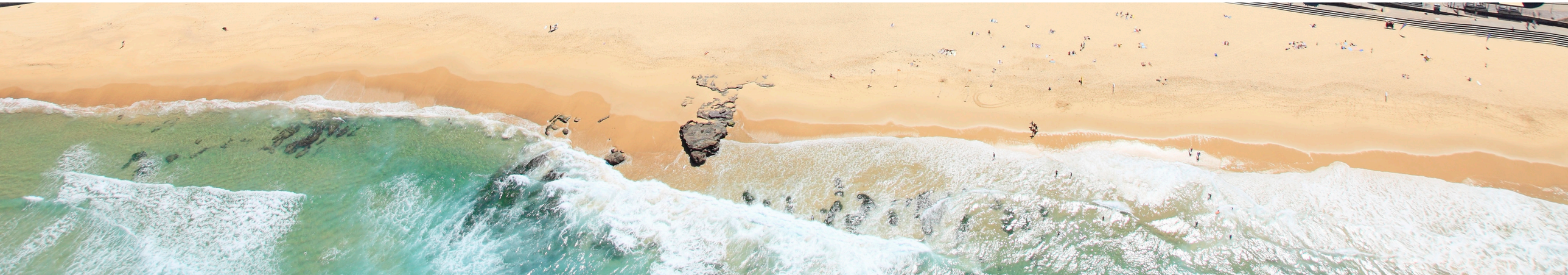


Image:
City of Newcastle Smart Lighting, Hunter Street

Addressing **the Challenge**

As we enter a critical decade for action on climate change, we are already beginning to glimpse the impacts that a changing climate may have on our everyday lives. Likely major consequences of climate change will include more frequent and widespread bushfires, flooding, extreme heat and increased risk of disease and pandemics[1]. The increase of these events will have far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society and this clearly highlights the vulnerabilities that Australians will face. Globally, 2019 was the second hottest year on record, (after 2016) with average temperature records for the decade 2010-2019 the highest on record[2] and each decade since the 1980s warmer than the previous one.

At a global level, the Paris Climate Agreement committed international governments, including Australia, to take and encourage action to address climate change through reducing greenhouse gas emissions and undertaking climate change adaptation[3]. To limit global warming to below 2°C above preindustrial levels and as close to 1.5°C as possible, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that the world needs to reach carbon neutrality no later than 2050 and even then, it is a 50/50 chance whether warming can be kept within 1.5°C[4]. With temperatures having already increased by 1.1 degrees celsius, according to the United Nations, emissions globally will have to fall 7.6% year on year for the next decade to stay on track to meet the 1.5°C temperature goal of the Paris Agreement[5].

To meet this challenge, governments, business and industry all need to adopt 'science-based' targets that are aligned with the latest climate science[6].

In Australia, targets to reach net zero emissions have been set by every State and Territory, with New South Wales committing to taking decisive and responsible action on climate change through a Net Zero Plan (2020-2030) and a goal of net zero emissions for the entire state by 2050[7].

The NSW Government has also undertaken detailed work to look at the benefits and competitive advantages that decarbonisation can have in generating economic development, prosperity and jobs growth in NSW, positioning the State as a global leader in innovative technologies and services[8].

Cities are at the forefront of responding to a changing climate and the systematic shocks that will be faced in the future. At the City of Newcastle (CN), reducing emissions and mitigating the effects of climate change has been a focus area for more than 25 years. During this time, CN has delivered strong cuts in emissions across its operations making significant financial savings in the process. It has led by example and formed strong partnerhships, in helping the City shift towards a low-carbon future and transition to an economy of greater self-sufficiency and resilience.

Continuing the work of reducing emissions in the City, this Climate Action Plan (CAP) is separated into two parts – an action plan to reduce CN's operational emissions and an action plan to reduce emissions from the City as a whole. The CAP sits under the City of Newcastle's 2030 Community Strategic Plan (CSP) and environmental strategy. Although it's key goal is in the mitigation of climate change and reducing emissions, it also complements other strategies and plans that are focused on climate adaptation, an equally crucial area for the City to address.

To meet the challenges of a climate emergency, take advantage of the economic opportunities from meeting emissions targets and create a net zero emission City, it will take collective action, commitment and leadership from all sectors of the community. Sharing knowledge, research and experience to drive down emissions in Newcastle and beyond will help deliver the community's vision for a smart, liveable and sustainable global city.

2008/09
Our Baseline Emissions Data

In development of the preceding 2020 Carbon and Water Management Action Plan (CWMAP) adopted in 2011, City of Newcastle (CN) undertook a detailed carbon footprint analysis for its Operations in accordance with the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) guidelines and emissions factors stipulated in the Australian Government's National Greenhouse Account Factors. This set a baseline year of 2008/09 and this remains as our basline data that CN tracks its progress against. As operational emissions continue to decrease and the opportunity to reach net zero emissions approaches, further detailed carbon footprinting will need to be undertaken if independent verification of carbon neutral or net zero emission status is to be attained.

Our baseline data or starting point, identified our emissions (in tonnes of Carbon Dioxide equivalent or t CO2-e) under three categories or 'scopes' based on their source.

Scope 1 Emissions:
43,339 t CO2-e in 2008/09

Are the direct emissions from combustion of fuels used by CN Operations, fossil-based gas, liquid petroleum gas (LPG), refrigerants in air conditioning equipment and vehicles. This figure also includes landfill emissions from Summerhill Waste Management Centre (WMC), although these could be considered a community emission as they include waste received from residents and commercial/ industrial sources both within the Local Government Area and outside of Newcastle. Estimating these emissions is a difficult task requiring detailed data modelling and assumptions. Further detailed work is required to update assumptions including the impact that landfill gas capture and generation has had on reducing this emission source.

Scope 2 Emissions:
7,982 t CO2-e in 2008/09

Are indirect emissions associated with the purchase of electricity to operate lighting, buildings and other CN infrastructure.

Scope 3 Emissions:
10,242 t CO2-e in 2008/09

Are CN activities that generate indirect emissions from sources not owned or operated by CN including full lifecycle emission from the extraction and production of fuels, emissions from transport not owned by CN (such as air travel) and emissions associated with the manufacture of products and services used by CN. Water and wastewater is also included in Scope 3. Although the best available data is used, this is another area where more detailed work is required to measure emissions from construction activities and other Scope 3 sources. Included in this Scope 3 data is the electricity used in Public Street lighting, however this may be counted as a Scope 2 emission in future, given CN's operational control and accelerated program to upgrading lights to LED.

Chart 1 - City of Newcastle 2008/09 Baseline Scope 1 and 2 Emissions (Including Summerhill WMC)

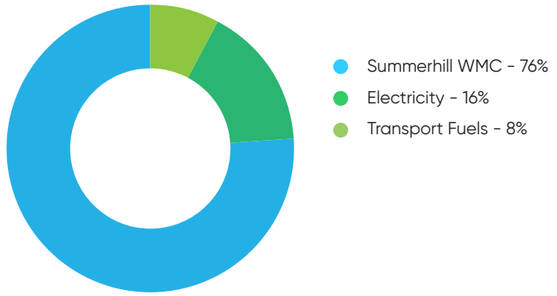


Chart 2 - City of Newcastle 2008/09 Baseline Scope 1, 2 and 3 Emissions (excluding Summerhill WMC)

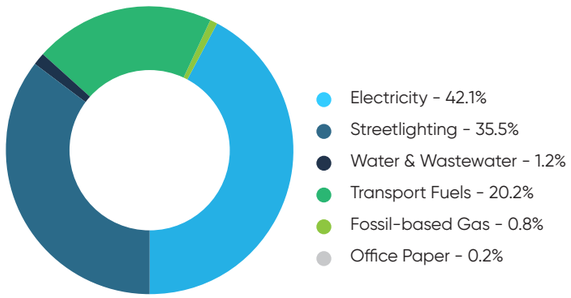


Image:
Rooftop solar PV install at Newcastle Regional Museum

A Decade **of Progress**

With the adoption of the 2020 Carbon and Water Management Action Plan in 2011, City of Newcastle (CN) has been actively working towards reducing its operational emissions, leading by example and sharing knowledge and experience with the community to drive down emissions across the City.

Following successful completion of the Greenhouse Action In Newcastle (GAIN) 2001-08 Plan, that saw a 13.6% reduction below 1995 levels, CN has continued its strong focus on energy efficiency, delivering the multi-year roll out of the Smart Buildings Smart Workforce program between 2013-2015, where CN upgraded seven of its major sites to deliver an annual reduction in electricity use of 1.45 gigawatt hours (GWh) and saving over $245,000 a year in electricity costs. The $3.75m program received $1.75m in grant funding from the Australian government and targeted upgrades and improvements to air-conditioning, lighting and thermal performance in buildings.

A Heritage Green Energy Grant from the State Government saw significant energy efficiency upgrades to the Newcastle Regional Museum, with the project winning the Energy Efficiency Award at the National Cities Power Partnership awards.

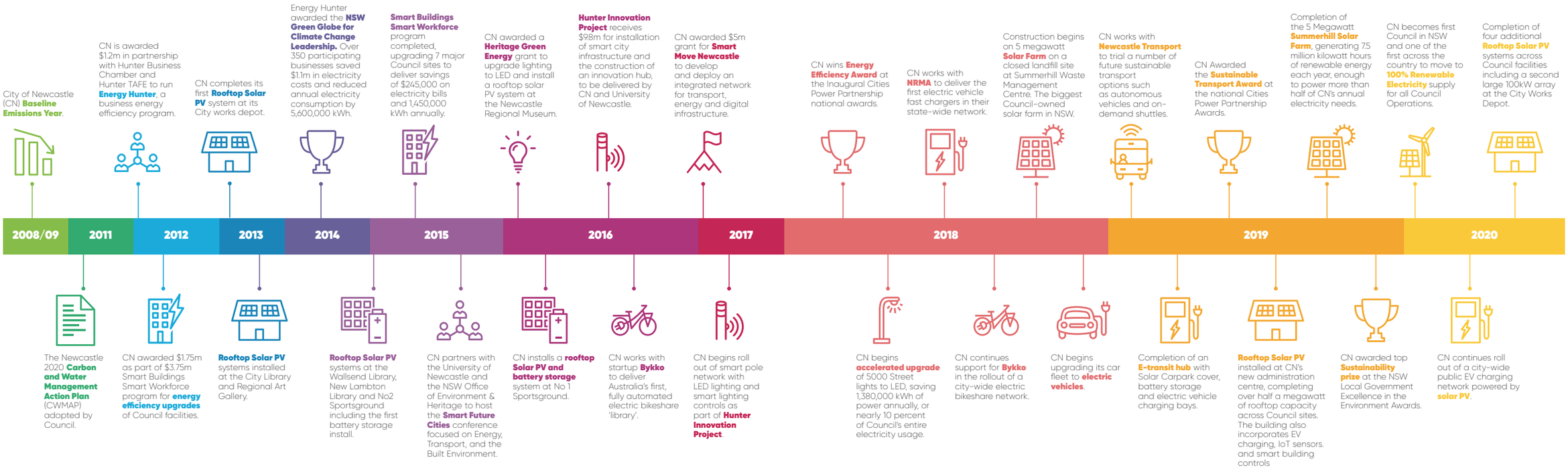
As one of the largest energy users across CN operations, street lighting was also targeted for accelerated replacement to LED lighting. Replacing five thousand lights on residential roads reduced total electricity consumption by 1.38 GWh annually or nearly ten percent of total energy consumption. A further 4,500 street lights on main roads are also scheduled for replacement.

CN also continued to run highly successful engagement programs, based on its 14-Step ClimateCam Framework. In collaboration with the Hunter Business Chamber and Hunter TAFE, CN delivered the Energy Hunter program to over 350 businesses across the Hunter Region, providing real-time electricity monitoring, energy audits, workshops and assistance in developing energy efficiency projects.

The program, which helped businesses reduce electricity use by 5.6 GWh and save over $1.1m in electricity savings each year, won the prestigious Climate Change Leadership Award at the NSW Government's Green Globe Awards.

Embracing renewable energy, CN started with the first rooftop Solar PV install at the City Works Depot in 2012/13 and has gone on to complete a further twelve rooftop or carpark Solar PV systems, totalling over 685kW and generating approximately one gigawatt hour of renewable energy each year, used directly onsite by CN buildings and facilities.

Building on this success, a 5 megawatt Solar Farm was constructed on a closed landfill site at Summerhill Waste Management Centre. On 1 January 2020, CN also became the first Council in NSW to move to 100% renewable electricity supply, signing a Power Purchase Agreement to receive renewable energy from Sapphire Wind Farm.



Shifting **Focus**

At the beginning of delivery for the 2020 Carbon and Water Management Action Plan (CWMAP), City of Newcastle's (CN) emissions profile (excluding Summerhill Waste Management Centre (WMC) showed that electricity use accounted for nearly 80% of total operational emissions. Considerable focus on energy efficiency and renewable energy development, concluding with a 100% Renewable Power Purchase Agreement, has resulted in significant reductions in carbon emissions and removed electricity as CN's main emission source, as the CWMAP reaches completion.

Table 1
Progress against key targets

30% Reduction in CN's electricity usage	**20.84%**	Decrease (behind target)
80% of Newcastle's street lights using best practice technology	**31%**	Increase (behind target)
30% of CN's electricity generated from low carbon sources	**100%**	Increase (ahead of target)
30% reduction in CN's potable water usage	**13.9%**	Decrease (behind target)
30% reduction in CN's Carbon footprint	**77%***	Decrease (ahead of target)
20% reduction in CN's fossil-based liquid fuel usage	**6.8%**	Decrease (behind target)

*Excluding emissions from SWMC

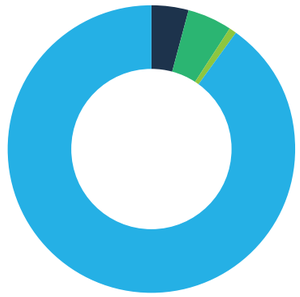
Analysis showed (using best available data) that CN has exceeded its renewable energy target and carbon emission reduction targets while also making good progress against other key goals such as reducing use of electricity, water and fossil-based liquid fuels. Energy efficiency and renewable energy generation will continue as important goals in this Climate Action Plan, both from a cost saving perspective and emission reduction activity, with a focus on upgrading existing legacy street lights, increasing onsite solar PV and battery storage and unlocking further opportunities through smart energy management and demand response capabilities.

In the area of reducing transport emissions, CN has made good early progress through beginning the transition of its passenger fleet to electric vehicles and installing Electric Vehicle charging stations both within CN facilities and for public access use.

The use of fossil-based liquid fuels such as diesel and unleaded petrol in CN cars, trucks, waste fleet, plant and equipment now account for over 90% of CN's remaining operational emissions. This is produced from more than 1.6 million litres of fuel used annually across CN's operations.

Technology and costs have improved rapidly and in many cases electric options are already more cost-effective than traditional internal combustion engine (ICE) alternatives in a total cost of ownership (TCO) assessment. Electric options are available, or coming soon, for most fleet and equipment types. This presents an opportunity to minimise exposure to fuel price spikes and supply vulnerabilities, promote greater self-sufficiency and resilience and reduce carbon emissions. It can also greatly improve air quality and create significant health benefits from reduced exposure to diesel particulates and other traffic pollutants. For these reasons, the electrification of CN's fleet, plant and equipment will be a key focus areas in this Climate Action Plan.

Chart 3 -
City of Newcastle 2020 Snapshot
Scope 1, 2 and 3 Emissions
(Excluding Summerhill WMC)



- Transport Fuels - 90%
- Fossil-based Gas and LPG - 4.0%
- Water & Wastewater - 5.0%
- Office Paper - 1.0%

Emissions from the Summerhill Waste Management Centre have been excluded from analysis due to the limited operational control CN has over the placement of waste and the complexity in accurately modelling fugitive emissions. However, in order to achieve net zero emissions, it remains a crucially important area for CN to undertake further detailed assessment, including the positive benefits from landfill gas generation and emission reductions that will accrue from construction of the Organics processing facility. Building circular economies and reducing supply chain emissions also form a key part of this plan and as such, further work is required in understanding CN's Scope 3 emissions.

Image: **City of Newcastle designed Environmental Sensing Unit**

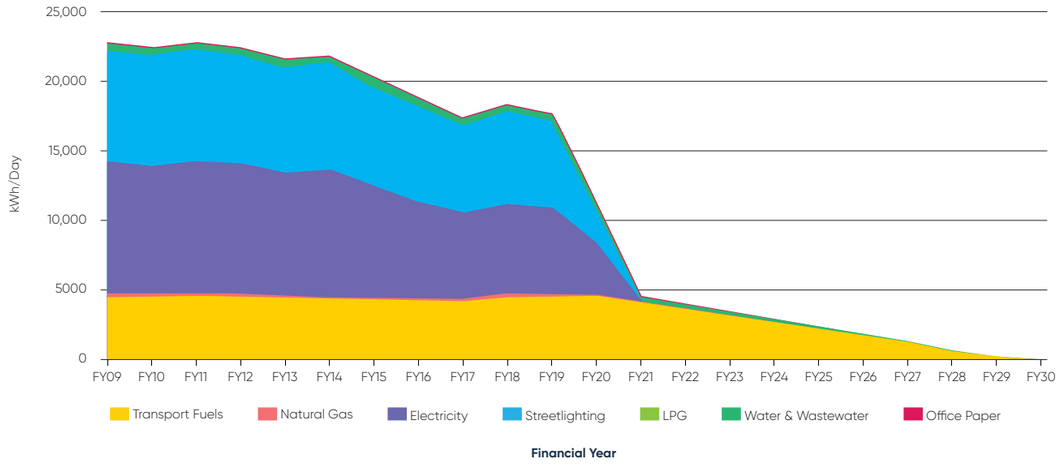
Image: **City of Newcastle Electric Vehicle Charging Hub**

The Pathway to Net Zero

City of Newcastle (CN) operates a large number of buildings, facilities, vehicles, plant and equipment which all contribute to greenhouse gas emissions across its operations. Achieving net zero emissions is both technologically and economically feasible, with much of the required technology and solutions readily available. It will however, take a sustained, strategic approach to ensure that while emissions reduction activities are undertaken, CN uses the best information available to make choices that lead and manage this transition without increasing its footprint in other areas.

Having effectively dealt with emissions from electricity sources, detailed anaylsis of CN's operational emissions profile was undertaken, combined with best practice actions from around the world and strong local engagement. This has created a Climate Action Plan with a series of focused, practical actions that can achieve a Net Zero Emissions organisation. While reducing the use of liquid fuels will be the main requirement in reaching Net Zero Emissions, many other opportunities exist through better use and management of resources, advancing options for a circular economy and setting clear expectations with suppliers about the preference for low carbon products and materials. Although CN's carbon footprint is not large compared to the rest of the City, the sooner CN reaches Net Zero Emissions, the bigger the cumulative impact of this achievement and the greater the opportunity to encourage change in the City from a position of leadership.

Pathway to Net Zero Operational Emissions



The above analysis is focused on emissions created from operations undertaken by CN, while excluding landfill emissions from the Summerhill Waste Management Centre (SWMC). The baseline data from 2008/09 estimated emissions from SWMC to be 38,973 t CO2-e, making it the largest source of CN's emissions. Considerable work is required in updating these estimates and accounting for changes that have occurred in the last decade, including landfill gas generation and new landfill cells. This process will need to be undertaken in parallel to reducing CN's other emission sources and continuing projects that will further reduce this impact such as construction of the organics processing facility.

Image:
Newcastle Electric Bikeshare Network

Alignment with Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan

High level alignment with the Community Strategic Plan is essential to the long-term implementation of the Climate Action Plan. The Actions of this plan have been designed to clearly integrate with the Community Objectives and Strategies of the CSP across five of the seven Strategic Directions and the UN SDGs. This alignment is essential for delivering on our community's vision of a smart liveable and sustainable global city.

Protected Environment

Liveable Built Environment

Open and Collaborative Leadership

Smart and Innovative

Integrated and Accessible Transport

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Reducing our Corporate Emissions

The City of Newcastle has long recognised the importance of its role as a City leader and the value of sharing its experiences with others, so that they too, may utilise this knowledge to improve sustainability in their own operations. CN's leadership is illustrated by acting as a first-mover to deploy and demonstrate new and emerging technologies and policies. This leadership draws on our commitment to innovation and using technology to solve environmental issues in a local context.

Setting a goal for Net Zero Emissions, CN has built upon previous achievements, identified a detailed and achievable pathway to reduce our corporate emissions and set targets in line with the urgent action that the science is telling us must be undertaken to achieve rapid decarbonisation.

This section of the plan will focus on emissions as a result of CN operations and will be updated as required, to ensure actions and policy response to climate change remain current and reflect community needs.

By no later than 2030, City of Newcastle will reach ***Net Zero Emissions for its Operations***

To Achieve this goal, this Climate Action Plan is structured around four key themes for reducing emissions across City of Newcastle Operations:

By 2025 City of Newcastle will aim for:

- A **30% reduction in electricity use**, based on FY2019/20 consumption
- **100% of all installed lighting to be LED** or best practice equivalent
- A **50% reduction in liquid fuel use**, based on FY2019/20 consumption
- A **50% reduction in carbon emissions** from operations including Summerhill Waste Management Centre

100% Renewable
Energy Supply

Objective:
To utilise 100% renewable energy supply for City of Newcastle Operations

1.1 Continue to source 100% renewable electricity through a combination of onsite generation, battery storage and renewable electricity power purchasing agreements (PPAs).

1.2 Transition all plant and equipment to electric and battery powered options or other zero-emission alternatives.

1.3 Eliminate the use of fossil-based gas across CN operations. Where electric alternatives are unavailable, investigate the use of renewable gas.

1.4 Implement alternatives to reduce and remove the use of fossil-based liquid fuels across CN operations.

1.5 Investigate and install megawatt scale battery storage options to firm renewable supply and build resilience across CN operations.

Best Practice Energy
Water and Waste Efficiency

Objective:
Ensure Best Practice use of resources across all CN facilities and operations

2.1 Develop and implement a demand response program and increase battery storage across CN sites to reduce peak electricity use and provide grid support.

2.2 Ensure all installed building, facility, public and street lighting is LED or best practice equivalent.

2.3 Implement ongoing energy efficiency improvements across CN assets and aim for negative emission buildings.

2.4 Undertake an audit of recycled materials collected and processed at Summerhill Waste Management Centre and identify opportunities for their utilisation within CN operations.

2.5 Establish organics processing, materials recovery and other processing facilities at Summerhill Waste Management Centre to provide best practice waste diversion and recovery.

2.6 Collect and analyse data on landfill emissions and CN operational waste going to landfill and implement strategies to reduce and divert waste going to landfill.

2.7 Identify and implement opportunities for utilising water efficient technologies and recycled water.

2.8 Investigate opportunities for trialling and demonstrating vehicle-to-grid (V2G) and other emerging technologies.

Sustainable
Supply Chain

Objective:
Identify and implement actions to reduce emissions in products and procedures across CN Operations.

3.1 Set targets and policies for the use of sustainable and recycled materials in procurement, civil and construction works.

3.2 Identify and implement opportunities to utilise green concrete and other low emissions materials in CN civil and construction works.

3.3 Utilise recycled glass, aggregate and other recovered materials in CN operations.

3.4 Identify and implement opportunities to utilise recycled plastics in street furniture, posts, playgrounds and other CN infrastructure.

3.5 Remove all single use plastics from operational activities.

3.6 Work with local businesses to trial, develop and implement low emissions materials and technologies.

3.7 Prioritise low emissions building materials in design and construction of CN assets.

3.8 Improve data capture on supply chain emissions, measure embodied energy in materials and develop metrics to improve circularity in CN's supply chain.

Zero Emissions
Transport

Objective:
Supporting the transition to clean, efficient, emissions-free transport across City of Newcastle

4.1 Support cycling through provision of adequate cycle lanes, bike parking and end-of-ride facilities.

4.2 Provide publicly accessible electric vehicle charging infrastructure at key locations throughout the city, powered by onsite renewables where possible.

4.3 Procure electric vehicles for all passenger fleet replacements where options are available and identify opportunities to accelerate removal of fossil-fuel based vehicles from operations.

4.4 Transition all CN light trucks to electric options where available and monitor and trial improvements.

4.5 Transition all CN heavy trucks including waste collection vehicles to electric options where available and monitor and trial improvements in technology.

4.6 Encourage sustainable transport options for all staff travel and offset emissions where options are not available.

Community
Emission Reduction

The second part of this Climate Action Plan is focused on how Newcastle as a whole, can track towards Net Zero Emissions in a practical way. It is also focused on taking advantage of the considerable economic opportunities that arise from a clean energy and low-emissions industry landscape. It is imperative that the City accelerates this low carbon journey as soon as possible, given the scale of emissions associated with all sectors of the community. The City can address areas such as electricity and transport use where decarbonisation is already achievable, while beginning the groundwork and supporting emerging areas such as renewable hydrogen and zero-emission industries. This will pave the way for a resilient and thriving Net Zero Emission City.

Although CN does not itself account for a large portion of Newcastle's emissions, it has an important role to play in demonstrating how to operate more sustainably, share knowledge, enable action and encourage innovation and new industries. CN can also work collaboratively with other levels of government, business, industry and advocacy groups to ensure a managed transition that supports the community along the way and provides new and meaningful opportunities for work.

Chart 5 - Newcastle LGA 2008 Scope 1 and 2 Carbon Emissions by sector (Source BZE and Ironbark)
(Excluding industrial fossil-based gas use)

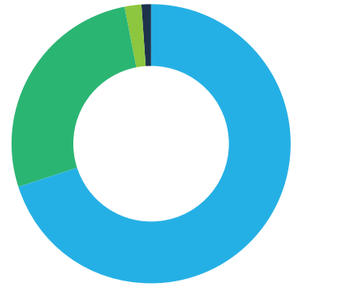
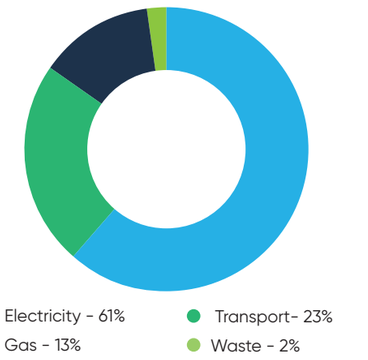


Chart 6 - Newcastle LGA 2018/19 Emissions Snapshot (Source BZE and Ironbark)



Analysis undertaken for the baseline year of 2008 estimated Newcastle Local Government Area emissions at approximately 2.4 million t CO2-e annually. This carbon footprint showed that the vast majority of emissions in Newcastle come from the business sector, (even when excluding industrial fossil-based gas use, which was estimated to account for an additional 1.44 million tonnes of CO2-e). Business and Industry is therefore a key focus area for achieving substantial emission reductions.

It is important though, that there is a focus on enabling actions in every sector of the community, particularly as some areas are easier to address than others.
As demonstrated with CN's own operations, the cumulative and compounding impact of reducing all emission areas as early as possible, will help to slow the depletion of the City's remaining carbon budget and ensure the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement are achieved.

Accurately assessing the emissions profile of a City is a difficult task and relies on the best data sources available at the time, some of which may not be accessible at all.
More recent analysis (Chart 6) has shown a carbon footprint broadly in line with the work undertaken for the previous 2020 Carbon and Water Management Action Plan.

As expected, the main differences are a decrease in the percentage of emissions from electricity, due to grid decarbonisation, energy efficiency and the uptake of rooftop solar, while there has been an increase in emissions from transport. These remain two critical areas in which big emission reduction opportunities already exist.

Community **Emission Reduction**

Electricity reduction through energy efficiency initiatives and switching to renewable electricity for stationary energy use in homes, businesses and industry can reduce emissions from within the Newcastle LGA by nearly two-thirds.

The technology to achieve this is already well-proven and commercially available and there are immediate and cost-effective opportunities across all sectors.

Data from the network operator Ausgrid, shows a steady decline in average electricity usage across residential, Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) businesses and large businesses between 2008 to 2013/14, before an increase in the following years. During this period there was also a 7% increase in residential customers. At the same time, the increase in solar customers and amount of installed capacity has increased dramatically and it is important to accelerate this uptake even further, to achieve significant emission reduction and continue to support a local clean tech market.

A study of emission reduction pathways to 2040 shows that through grid decarbonisation, increased use of onsite renewable energy and transitioning transport to electric options, a Net Zero Emissions Newcastle is within reach.

Chart 7 - Average Electricity Usage Newcastle Residential, SME and Large Businesses (Source Ausgrid)

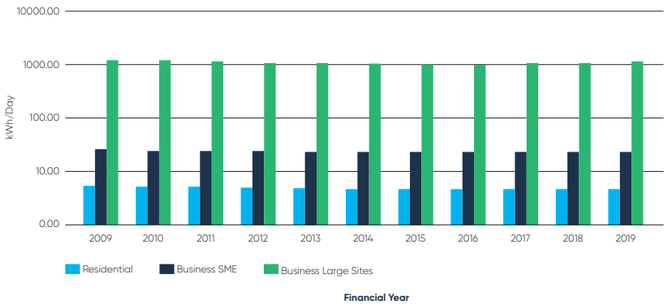
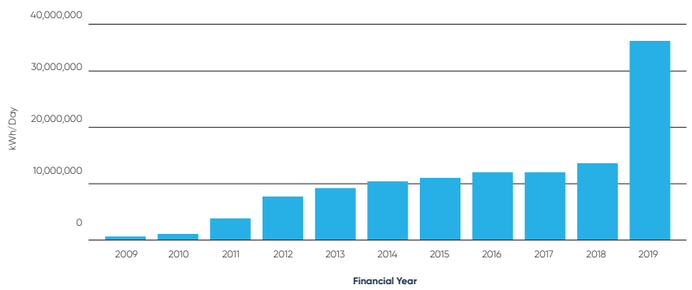


Chart 8 - Newcastle Annual Solar Exported to Grid (Source Ausgrid)



Getting to a Net Zero Newcastle by 2040

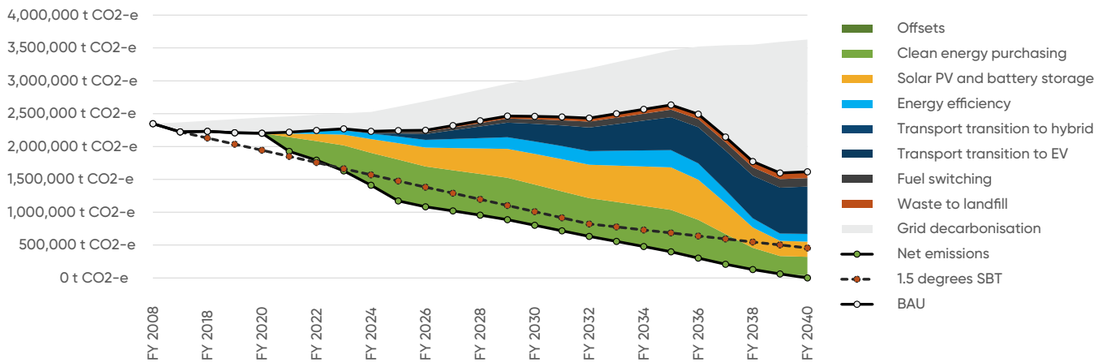


Chart 9 - Decarbonisation Pathway (Source 100% Renewables)

Towards a **Net Zero Emissions City**

Objective:
To create a resilient city that reduces its share of emissions to ensure a cleaner and more sustainable future

City Aspirational Goals for 2025:

- 30% reduction in city-wide emissions
- 100MW of new renewable generation capacity
- 1 MW of new community renewable energy projects
- 30% reduction in average daily electricity consumption
- 500GWh of new Renewable Power Purchase Agreements
- 10,000 registered electric vehicles
- Secure commitment from 20 of the Largest Newcastle Businesses to target Net Zero Emissions no later than 2030

And targeting Net Zero Emissions from Electricity by 2030

Low Emissions Development

5.1 Investigate a set of low-carbon and low-water building performance enhancements for inclusion in the City's Development Control Plan (DCP) for all new buildings and major renovations, including encouraging the use of passive design features, green roofs, solar panels, storage and EV charging.

5.2 Lobby the NSW Government for improvements to the Building Sustainability Index (BASIX) minimum performance requirements, through a combined approach from active Local Governments.

5.3 Work with the NSW State Government to identify neighbourhoods and catalyst areas suitable for establishing a low carbon precinct as a demonstration project.

Encouraging Clean Technology

5.4 Support and share knowledge with residents, business and industry to encourage energy efficiency, the uptake of renewable energy and target 100% renewable electricity supply.

5.5 Support residents, business and industry in transitioning to low emissions technologies, including development of solar gardens, virtual microgrids, community renewable energy and battery storage initiatives.

5.6 Investigate and encourage the opportunity for Newcastle residents and businesses to buy and sell locally and regionally produced renewable energy and carbon offsets.

Building a Low Carbon Circular Economy

5.7 Promote and encourage local resilience and a circular economy through sustainable procurement practices, and the local sourcing, production and consumption of materials.

5.8 Identify options to encourage and support waste avoidance opportunities for Newcastle residents, business and industry, including a phased-in ban on single use plastics.

5.9 Identify and measure the carbon sequestration potential from street and park trees, bushland, wetland and other natural assets and promote the opportunities and multiple climate and resilience benefits of urban blue-green grids.

Towards a **Net Zero Emissions City**

Supporting an Electric Transport Future

5.10 Work with the NSW State Government, electricity network operator (Ausgrid), technology providers, neighbouring Councils and electricity retailers to provide suitable charging solutions for electric vehicle owners (both off street and on street parking).

5.11 Work with the NSW State Government, councils and other stakeholders to encourage and incentivise the uptake of electric vehicles and zero-emission transport.

5.12 Actively work with Newcastle Transport, Fleet and Freight operators to reduce transport emissions (including advocating for electric buses, ferries, taxis and delivery trucks in the City).

Advancing New Zero Emission Industries

5.13 Advocate for Zero-emission Industries in Newcastle and the Hunter, the establishment of a low emissions technology development and commercialisation zone and support for a just transition for carbon workers.

5.14 Advocate for the creation of renewable hydrogen and ammonia export hubs, a regional bioenergy hub and green metal and mineral processing in Newcastle and the Hunter.

5.15 Actively promote Newcastle as a clean tech innovation hub and an international test laboratory for best practice carbon and water reduction technologies and services for the national and international markets.

References and Research

References

1 **World Health Organisation –** 'Climate change and human health'
www.who.int/globalchange/climate/summary/en/index5.html
National Centre for Biotechnology Information – 'Potential Impact of Climate Change on Pandemic Influenza Risk'
www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov

2 **World Meteorological Organization –** 'WMO confirms 2019 as second hottest year on record' 15 January 2020
https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/wmo-confirms-2019-second-hottest-year-record

3 **The Paris Agreement**, opened for signature 16 February 2016 (entered into force 4 November 2016)
https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement

4 **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) –** 'Special Report, Global Warming of 1.5°C
www.ipcc.ch/sr15/

5 **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change –** 'Cut Global Emissions by 7.6 Percent Every Year for Next Decade to Meet 1.5°C Paris Target'-UN Report 26 November 2019
https://unfccc.int/news/cut-global-emissions-by-76-percent-every-year-for-next-decade-to-meet-15degc-paris-target-un-report

6 **Science Based Targets (SBTI) –** 'What is a Science Based Target?'
https://sciencebasedtargets.org/what-is-a-science-based-target/

7 **NSW Government Department of Planning, Industry and Environment –** 'Net Zero PlanStage 1: 2020
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/-/media/OEH/Corporate-Site/Documents/Climate-change/net-zero-plan-2020-2030-200057.pdf

8 **NSW Government Chief Scientist and Engineer –** 'NSW Decarbonisation Innovation Study'
www.chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au/reports/nsw-decarbonisation-innovation-study

Tables and Charts

Chart 1 to 5 - **Newcastle 2020 Carbon and Water Management Action Plan**

Chart 6 - **Snapshot Climate** - Prepared by Beyond Zero Emissions and Ironbark Sustainability
https://snapshotclimate.com.au/locality/australia/new-south-wales/newcastle/

Chart 7 to 8 - **Ausgrid** - Data to Share, Average Electricity Use
https://www.ausgrid.com.au/Industry/Our-Research/Data-to-share/Average-electricity-use

Chart 9 - **100% Renewables** - Decarbonisation Pathway for Newcastle

Additional Research

Beyond Zero Emissions - 'The Million Jobs Plan' and 'Diversifying The Hunter'
(https://bze.org.au/the-million-jobs-plan/) (https://bze.org.au/diversifying-the-hunter/)

ClimateWorks Australia -'Decarbonisation Futures: Solutions, actions and benchmarks for a net zero emissions Australia'
www.climateworksaustralia.org/resource/decarbonisation-futures-solutions-actions-and-benchmarks-for-a-net-zero-emissions-australia

Garnaut, Ross -'Super Power - Australia's Low-Carbon Opportunity, Black Inc. Books 2019''

Grattan Institute -'Start with steel: A Practical plan to support carbon workers and cut emissions'
https://grattan.edu.au/report/start-with-steel/

newcastle.nsw.gov.au

ATTACHMENTS DISTRIBUTED UNDER SEPARATE COVER

CCL 24/11/2020 – ADOPTION OF THE 2025 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

ITEM-84 **Attachment B:** Public Exhibition – 2025 CAP Engagement Report

Draft Climate Action Plan

Public Exhibition report

October 2020

Table of contents

Executive summary

City of Newcastle's (CN) draft 2025 Climate Action Plan (CAP) is a 4-year agenda designed to meet the challenges of a Climate Emergency[1] and reduce emissions across the city. It has actions and targets relating to energy efficiency, renewable energy generation, reducing transport emissions, and developing a circular economy to build upon the success that has occurred over the past decade.

The draft 2025 CAP had been separated into two parts – an action plan to reduce CN's operational emissions, and an action plan to reduce emissions from the city as a whole. The draft 2025 CAP sits under CN's 2030 Community Strategic Plan (CSP) and Environmental Strategy; building upon actions delivered under the 2020 Carbon and Water Management Action Plan (CWMAP).

The draft 2025 CAP was publicly exhibited between 4 August and 31 August 2020 (28 days) to garner community feedback and insight. During this engagement period, stakeholder and general community feedback was promoted, complimenting earlier public engagement on the central themes and objectives of the draft 2025 CAP. To support the exhibition, three online information forums were undertaken to facilitate dialogue on the draft 2025 CAP's intent.

In total, over 60 submissions were received with support for CN's role towards taking climate action clearly identified, reaffirming CN's commitment to lead by example, build strong city partnerships, and continuing to deliver important emission reduction achievements for the city.

[1] *Newcastle City Council at its Ordinary Meeting on 28 May 2019 made a Climate Emergency Declaration recognising that there is a Climate Emergency.*

1. Background

Councillors endorsed the draft 2025 CAP for public exhibition at the 28 July 2020 Ordinary Council meeting.

The draft 2025 CAP is a roadmap for achieving positive impacts such as increasing clean energy, continuing resource efficiency, reducing emissions in our supply chain, supporting sustainable transport and addressing important issues such as setting targets for net zero emissions and building our vision for a low carbon economy.

The public exhibition period occurred from 4 August to 31 August 2020 (28 days). During this engagement period, both stakeholder and general community feedback was encouraged and supported through communications and promotion across a wide variety of channels.

The development of the draft 2025 CAP involved working with multiple stakeholders across the education, corporate, not-for-profit and public sectors to undertake comprehensive consultation specific to Newcastle.

In developing the draft 2025 CAP, research was undertaken to investigate best practice actions from cities across the world, with a focus on places with a strong alignment and relevance to Newcastle. CN's 2019 Winter Community Survey provided feedback on environmental initiatives and priorities. A series of workshops and engagement activities were also undertaken during development of the draft 2025 CAP, including with business stakeholders and public community sessions to ensure a broad range of feedback and input was received.

2. Public exhibition objectives

The public exhibition focused awareness on CN's position regarding Climate Change, emissions targets and efforts towards protecting the environment, along with providing opportunities for prioritising and ascertaining levels of support for actions and targets.

This included:

- publicly exhibiting and making accessible the draft 2025 CAP for a period of 28 days supported by CN's dedicated 'Have Your Say' engagement platform;
- ensuring stakeholders were aware of the draft 2025 CAP, and encouraged to review, provide feedback and comments;
- receiving submissions on the overarching focus and intent expressed within the draft 2025 CAP;
- obtaining feedback (support or otherwise) on the draft 2025 CAP and proposed targets;
- garnering views on the proposed timeframe to reach net zero emissions for CN; and
- providing opportunity for general feedback to support critical reflection and editorial revisions.

3. Communication and promotion

A communications campaign was implemented throughout the public exhibition period to raise awareness of the draft 2025 CAP and promote the opportunity for community members to provide feedback.

Key communications activities are summarised below, with key pieces of communication collateral available at **Appendix I**.

- Information on the draft 2025 CAP and exhibition period included in e-newsletters, including:
  - Have Your Say email newsletter distributed to 2,500+ subscribers on 4 August 2020
  - HunterHunter email newsletter distributed to 16,200 subscribers on 13 August 2020.
- Targeted advertising, promotions, social media and media release:
  - Print advert in the Newcastle Herald on 8 August 2020
  - Digital library screens (Wallsend and Newcastle Library)
  - Showcase tile on CN's home webpage
  - LinkedIn posts (12,500+ reach) in August 2020
  - Facebook CN (9,400+ reach) on 4 August 2020
  - Facebook CN (900+ reach) on 7 August 2020
  - Facebook Group Have Your Say (900+ reach) on 4 August 2020
  - Facebook Group Have Your Say (900+ reach) on 18 August 2020
  - Facebook HunterHunter (5,900+ reach) on 11 August 2020
  - Instagram HunterHunter (8,500+ reach) on 11 August 2020
  - Instastory HunterHunter (3,200+ reach) on 11 August 2020.
- Radio summary:
  - NEWFM Radio News – 8am – 29 July 2020, DUR: 15 seconds
  - 2HD Radio News – 7am – 29 July 2020, DUR: 30 seconds
  - 2HD Radio News – 9am – 29 July 2020, DUR: 30 seconds.
- Internal communications:
  - Staff NovoNews email newsletter distributed to 900+ subscribers on 5 August 2020
  - Featured news story on staff Intranet
  - Promotion on 12 Stewart Avenue digital screens.

Channel	Description	Reach
Have Your Say webpage	A dedicated project webpage was created on CN's Have Your Say landing page. The page provided a web form and contact for formal submissions. A reference link was added to CN's public exhibitions page.	8,500+ visits

Channel	Description	Reach
Social media	The public exhibition was promoted via a mix of unpaid and sponsored social media on CN's Facebook page and Have Your Say Facebook Group. The posts were designed to raise awareness and encourage people to have their say.	10,000+ reach
Newsletters	An e-newsletter was distributed to a selection of distribution lists.	3 X 19,600+
Stakeholder / Community information sessions	CN representatives from the Project and Community Engagement teams participated in an online information session in partnership with the University of Newcastle hosted by the Hunter Region SDG's Taskforce on 18 August 2020. Keynote speaking occurred on 5 August and 19 August 2020 with the Climate Action Newcastle and Hunter Environmental Institute. The purpose was to raise awareness of the public exhibition and encourage feedback whilst highlighting the alignment of the Plan with the SDG's.	3 sessions with 100+ attendees (approx.)
Councillor Memo / Workshop / Advisory Group Briefing	A Workshop was held with CN Councillors on 14 July and a follow up memo distributed on 29 July 2020 advising of the earlier engagement and providing information on how constituents can provide feedback and comment. A briefing was also held on 4 August with the Liveable Cities Advisory Committee outlining the proposed actions and scope of the Plan.	n/a
Media coverage	A media release was issued on 29 July 2020, resulting in 2 online stories, 1 newspaper article and three radio segments.	n/a

4. Engagement activities

A range of approaches and activities were carried out to promote the public exhibition and invite feedback. These activities included digital mechanisms to accommodate COVID-19 restrictions.

CN's website was utilised with a dedicated engagement webpage developed containing the draft CAP, supporting documents and information.

The range of engagement activities included:

- 'Have Your Say' webpage (achieving significantly high number of page views = 8,500+) developed to provide an accessible focus for the public exhibition, providing:
  - A copy of the draft 2025 CAP
  - A submission webform to assess the level of support and feedback on targets

  - Online document library linking key documents (Newcastle 2020 Carbon and Water Management Action Plan, information on CN building upgrades, CN's Our Commitment to Sustainability, CN's early Engagement Snapshot Report)
  - Early engagement snapshot infographic.
- Webinar: Leading Climate Action in our city with University of Newcastle and Hunter Region SDG's Taskforce on 18 August 2020 (58 registrations).
- Hunter Environmental Institute, Adam Clarke keynote on 19 August 2020 (40 attendees).
- Climate Action Newcastle on 5 August 2020 (30 attendees).
- Formal direct communication with key stakeholders, including:
  - Letters
  - Councillors workshop
  - Presentation to Council's Liveable Cities advisory group (4 August 2020)
  - Email notification to previous attendees (60+) of the early engagement workshop/information sessions
  - Discussions with neighbouring councils, State Government agencies and large city organisations.

5. Submissions

A total of 63 submissions were received by CN during the public exhibition period, comprising 13 direct submissions and 50 online web form submissions.

Online web form submissions

An online form was available on CN's Have Your Say platform throughout the duration of the exhibition period with optional questions. Several key themes and topics are evident that can assist in either validating or refining parts of the document.

The tables presenting the online submissions are located: **Appendix II**

To encourage feedback around specific parts of the draft 2025 CAP, the online form included the following five questions (with response synopsis) :

1. In response to - 'Do you support the vision?'

Noting the strategic association with CN's Newcastle 2030 CSP and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the draft 2025 CAP states its key goal is in the mitigation of climate change and reducing emissions.

The majority (41) of responses indicated they supported the draft 2025 CAP, with others indicating they wanted to be provided financial information (3) or otherwise provided general comments (2). Only four online submissions appeared to not support the draft 2025 CAP, indicating they preferred CN to focus on what they considered core operations and service provision.

2. In response to - 'Do you have any feedback on the proposed targets?'

Over 40 individuals provided their views that ranged from a desire for action to be taken as soon as possible to meet the targets (ie even before 2030), through to comments that the targets, whilst ambitious, appeared realistic, achievable and appropriate.

The draft 2025 CAP states that analysis has showed that CN has exceeded its renewable energy target and carbon emission reduction targets while also making good progress against other key goals such as reducing use of electricity, water and fossil-based liquid fuels.

Some feedback did question action towards carbon reduction or indicated they considered CN's efforts or responsibility should not be towards reducing emissions.

3. In response to - 'Do you have any feedback on the proposed timeframe to achieve Net Zero Emissions for CN?'

The draft 2025 CAP states, *"By no later than 2030, City of Newcastle will reach Net Zero Emissions for its Operations".*

Thirty six (36) individuals provided views on this question. The comments indicated broad support for the draft 2025 CAP's initiatives around reducing emissions, waste, electric vehicles, diversification, industry and business engagement, carbon accounting and auditing. Over a quarter of responses suggested the target should be brought forward and be more ambitious. A small number of responses disagreed with having a net zero target or required more detail on the potential impacts.

"The five-year plan is appropriate given the ultimate goal of net zero emissions by 2030. The next five years may bring new technology that will hasten the transmission."

4. In response to - 'Do you have suggestions on how CN can work with the community to support the transition to a net zero emission City?'

Almost 40 individuals provided comments presenting a range of ideas for consideration, including:

- encouraging recycling
- introducing wind power and solar panels
- planting more trees
- assistance for community groups
- joint projects for renewable energy systems
- bulk buying groups for renewable energy and energy efficiency products
- grants/initiatives encouraging renewable energy
- CN leading by example to champion and demonstrate commitment
- increasing the community's understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals
- workshops on Climate Change
- providing financial incentives to encourage zero carbon emission in new developments.

"I think CN have done a magnificent job of becoming the first NSW council to use 100% renewable energy sources. Achieving these further goals in five years is going to be hard work but the sooner the better. Way to go CN!"

5. In response to - 'Do you have any other feedback on the Plan?'

There was a strong level of support for the draft 2025 CAP, with comments such as "*Excellent / overall a positive move / looks good / good framework".* Some of the comments that individuals provided related to a range of topics for CN's consideration including:

Suggestions and Comments:

- Consider incentivising – eg parking discounts (for Electric Vehicles), private electric vehicle purchases,
- Work with others to transition/join with other neighbouring councils towards diversification
- Play an advocacy role in reducing Newcastle Local Government Area (LGA) greenhouse gas emissions
- Energy/water and waste audits and other educational initiatives could be carried out with businesses, residents and schools
- Broader engagement with business sector to facilitate carbon neutral electricity, transport and other transitions
- A range of public engagement actions
- Include whole of asset life, not just implementation costs in the draft 2025 CAP
- Ensure proposals consider resourcing, strategic risks and the sustainability drivers. Not just reducing greenhouse emissions
- Consider new building and developer actions. eg Add design features to Development Control Plans for building performance enhancement / incentivise builders.
- CN to include Summerhill Waste Management Centre (SWMC) in operational carbon budget
- Need for stronger suite of actions to reduce emissions
- Good goals but CN should invest in other actions eg road maintenance and public transport
- CN should determine and publish its greenhouse gas emissions
- Consider getting young people educated on CN's work around climate action.

Direct submissions

There were 16 direct submissions received via mail and email in addition to the web-form submissions.

Submissions were received from a mix of individuals, community and action groups, and small-to-medium and large organisations from the Newcastle and Hunter Region. Seven of the submissions followed the webform format.

Direct submissions all reflected a strong level of support for the draft 2025 CAP and illustrated well researched and meaningful feedback on specific aspects contained within the Plan. Many submissions suggested that more ambitious approach was required or that targets should be achieved sooner than proposed. Much of the feedback related to what work needs to be undertaken once the plan is in place. In addition to acknowledging CN's past work in relation to the Carbon and Water Management Action Plan 2011 and move to 100 per cent renewable electricity, a detailed range of recommendations were put forward:

Suggestions and Comments:

- Noting that 70-83% of emissions are from business (and mostly the top 20), cutting these must be a major, funded, detailed part of the plan.
- SWMC operations and fugitive emissions must be included in CN's carbon budget
- Net Zero city-wide target by 2030 – ambitious and aligned with intent of the climate emergency declaration.
- In order to be consist with the emergency declaration and be consistent with its role as a national and potentially global city leader the targets should be brought forward to reach net zero emissions for operations by 2025.
- Incentives for business to lower emissions, awards a recognition for leading examples, a climate safe procurement and tender policy and more charging points for commercial and private electric vehicles.
- Planning the city to reduce reliance on energy used for transport, heating, cooling and provision of essential services.
- Applying design and construction standards to ensure carbon-neutral development where it already has the powers.
- Agree the shift of transport fleet and plant away from fossil fuels is a priority in the next five years and immediately prepare a costed plan for electrification of CN's fleet and plant.
- Establish a City Carbon Budget program and Auditing office to support the city managing the transition to net zero.
- Proactive engagement with community groups and organisations to develop climate forums and coordination to achieve city-wide emission reduction.
- Establishment of a Newcastle Transition Authority or similar body representing the full range of community interests and bringing together knowledge, experience and advocacy.
- Broader and more committed engagement with the business sector to facilitate carbon neutral electricity, transport and other transitions from this most polluting sector in the LGA.
- Establish and resource a new specialist unit in CN to drive and monitor carbon reduction initiatives and investments while maintaining whole-of-CN involvement in implementation.
- Work with regional councils and the Joint Organisation to establish broadacre bushland conservation and revegetation projects within the region.
- Potentially CN could come up with a portfolio of carbon sequestration projects within the LGA that contribute to employment, especially for our Indigenous community and those who worked in the mining sector. CN could then enlist participation in the sequestration projects of the big energy consumers in the LGA to reduce their emissions.
- Develop and adopt an implementation plan detailing specific actions, timescales, responsibilities, budgets etc. especially over the term of this plan.
- Establishing five-year targets recognises the urgency of the task of reducing emissions in line with the international Paris Climate Agreement, and provides a solid framework

and benchmarks against which to measure progress towards these targets in partnership with the community.

- Welcome and support the targets for a carbon neutral council before or by 2030 and a carbon neutral LGA before or by 2040. These are consistent with the Paris Accord and are more ambitious than the NSW State target, as would be expected of the second largest city in the State.
- The noticeable shift in focus to leading the city's broader transition to become a net zero emissions city and partnering with many critical stakeholders is a welcome one.
- More ambition and solutions need to be found for 2030.
- Greater recognition is required of the Climate Emergency.
- CN must take its unique opportunity to massively impact global emissions falling to safe levels by working with councils and industry across the region to lead our fast and just transition away from coal mining and exports.
- CN should plan for and invest in the public infrastructure necessary to reduce carbon-producing activities (such as shifting commuters onto public transport) and to support new carbon-free technologies and industries.
- Urgently develop and adopt an action plan for the next financial year and include it as an item in the next (2021/22 budget)
- 50% reduction in CN carbon emissions for 2025 Climate Action Plan is promising and sets a good example.
- CN is the best-placed organisation to bring together all sectors of the Newcastle LGA to closely examine the city's entire carbon footprint and to identify where the highest impacts can be made in implementation – regardless of operational jurisdiction. Cooperation with other government bodies and private business will be par for the course.
- Building on existing initiatives, CN should also increase its delivery of community education and awareness on climate change issues, and on the practical actions that can be taken by businesses and households.

6. Summary of Findings/Responses

Overall, the submissions received reflected a strong support for the targets and actions proposed in the draft 2025 CAP, with a high number of submissions urging for more ambitious action and for targets to be met within a shorter timeframe, recognising that there is a climate emergency requiring civic leadership and demonstrable action.

The draft CAP sets out targets for achieving net zero emissions for the city significantly in advance of NSW Government state-wide targets and seeks to balance ambition and realistic appraisal of the complexity of transition.

The organisational targets outlined in the draft 2025 CAP are be delivered *no later than* 2030. The scope exists within this framework for accelerated delivery as momentum develops across

industry sectors, as the NSW State Government policy and regulation landscape evolves, and as new technology emerges to maturity.

Feedback highlighted the need to ensure resourcing and capacity was in place to deliver and implement actions and meet proposed targets. CN aims to achieve this through the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework by including costed actions in the annual operational plan aligned with its Resourcing Strategy and Long-Term Financial Plan.

The draft 2025 CAP provides a practical suite of initiatives that achieves as much emissions reduction as possible before moving to offsets, while balancing CN's organisational and capacity restraints.

Much of the feedback focused on the challenge of reducing emissions across the city, particularly in the business sector; which accounts for the large majority of emissions. There was a strong indication that CN, while not 'holding all the levers' to enable this, is well placed to play the role of initiating, supporting, coordinating and advocating for city-wide actions.

In response to multiple submissions, a range of aspirational, though achievable, goals for the broader city have been proposed for inclusion in the draft 2025 CAP. These aspirational goals provide a mechanism to focus the midterm efforts of city partners, industries and communities in Newcastle, and a set of indicators for measuring collective progress.

Some submissions proposed ideas that align with the general framework, but require achievement of prior goals outlined in the draft 2025 CAP. It is proposed that the draft 2025 CAP be reviewed at 2025 (or earlier if required) with the opportunity to both adjust targets based on progress and broader factors, and inclusion of further ideas for achieving reduced emissions and supporting industry and community transition.

There were a number of proposed initiatives considered to fit within current actions and will be taken into consideration as specific initiatives during the implementation of the plan. The draft 2025 CAP outlines a strategic framework for delivering on the identified targets and within it is substantial space for development of individual initiatives drawing upon these submitted ideas.

A large number of suggestions fell outside of the Plan's main focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Where topics were relevant to other strategies and plans currently being developed by CN (for example in waste management, cycling and transport, urban forestry and the environmental strategy), information has been passed on to relevant CN officers.

A smaller number of suggestions are not within CN's remit or lay with other tiers and jurisdictions of government and have not been adopted. Where appropriate, CN will continue to advocate to State and Federal Governments for accelerated and wide-ranging climate action.

Beyond comment on the specific actions and targets within the draft 2025 CAP, there was also a clear expectation that for the plan to be successful, a monitoring and reporting framework should be put in place during implementation to ensure transparency and accountability for delivery of actions.

This sentiment is in accordance with CN intentions to measure and benchmark progress towards the objectives of the draft 2025 CAP at both the organisational and broader city levels. It is proposed to integrate climate action reporting into corporate performance indicators within the CSP, and to produce a public data dashboard measuring progress against city-level goals.

A range of aspirational goals and indicators have been identified and included into the document for this purpose.

"Overall, this is indeed a very positive move and appreciative of any councils going forwards towards action plans related to climate change, renewable energy and carbon/emissions management procedures."

7. Recommendations

Following on from the exhibition period, it is recommended that the following updates are made to the draft 2025 CAP.

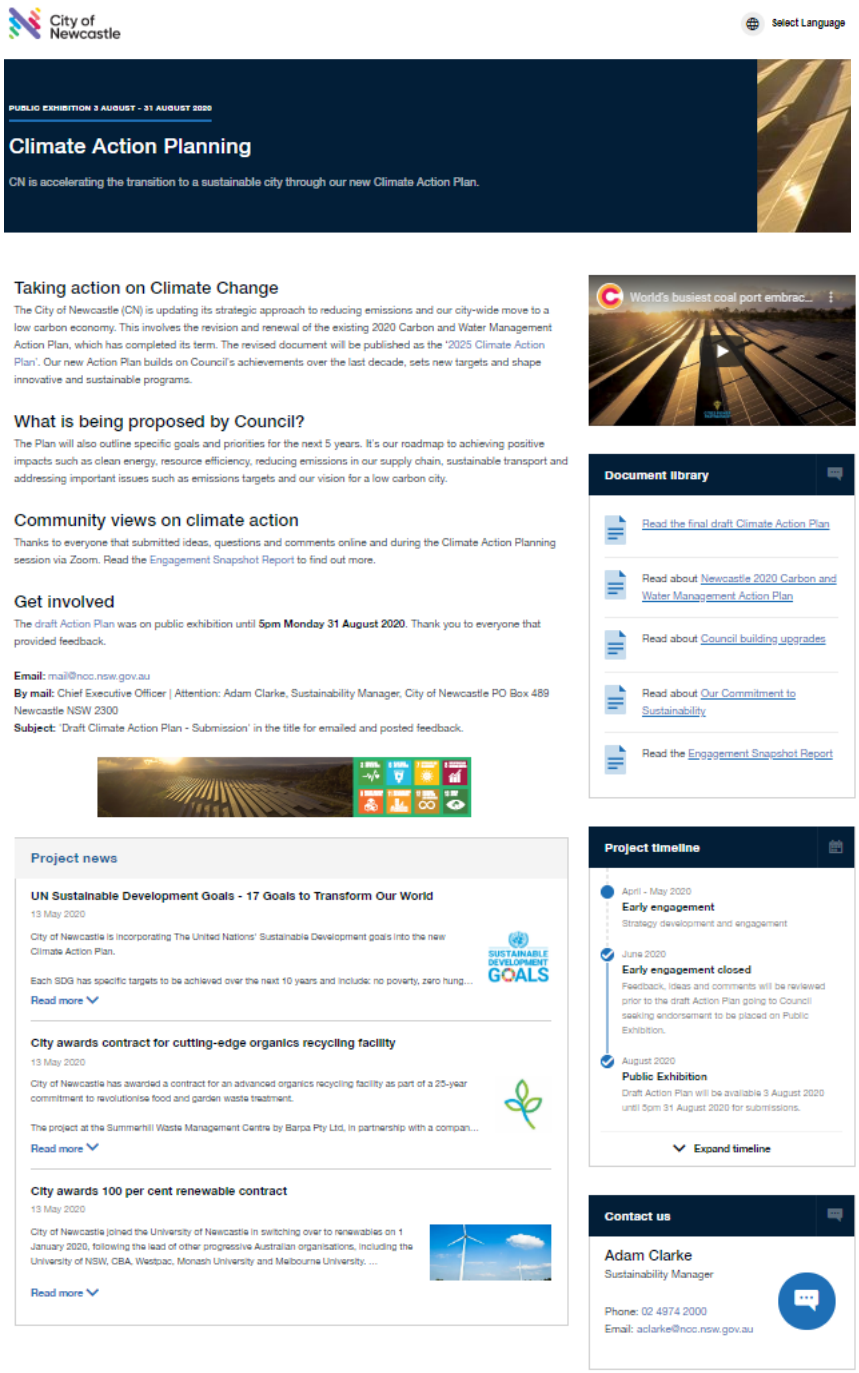
A summary of the themes that have been identified partnered with responses or recommendations to this feedback, is as follows:

Page	Update	Change to draft Plan
5	**Paragraph 1**	**"increased risk of infectious disease** and pandemics**."**
8	**Minor corrections**	
9	**Updated figures**	
10	**Updated figures**	
13	**Updated Graph**	
15	**Clarification on targets**	**"including Summerhill Waste Management Centre**
17	**Minor change to action 2.6**	**"landfill emissions and**
21	**Include additional stakeholders and update Chart 6**	
22	**Update to Chart 9**	
23	**Incorporate aspirational city goals**	A set of city aspirational goals: By 2025 a goal of: 30% reduction in city-wide emissions 100MW of new renewable generation capacity 1 MW of new community renewable energy projects 30% reduction in average daily electricity consumption 500GWh of new Renewable Power Purchase Agreements 10,000 registered electric vehicles

Page	Update	Change to draft Plan
		Secure commitment from 20 of the Largest Newcastle Businesses to target Net Zero Emissions by 2030 or sooner And Net Zero Emissions from Electricity by 2030
23	**Wording change to 5.1**	"**Investigate a set of** …. **Passive design features,** green roofs, solar panels**, storage and EV charging**
23	**Wording change to 5.6**	"buy and sell locally **and regionally…"**
23	**Wording change to 5.8**	**…including a phase-in ban on single use plastics in the LGA**.
24	**Wording change to 5.13**	Newcastle **and the Hunter,**
24	**Wording change to 5.14**	Newcastle **and the Hunter,**
25	**Update to references**	

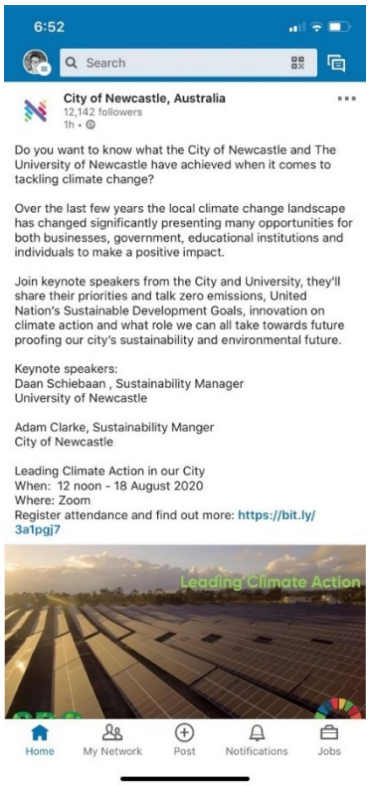
Appendix II – Promotional materials

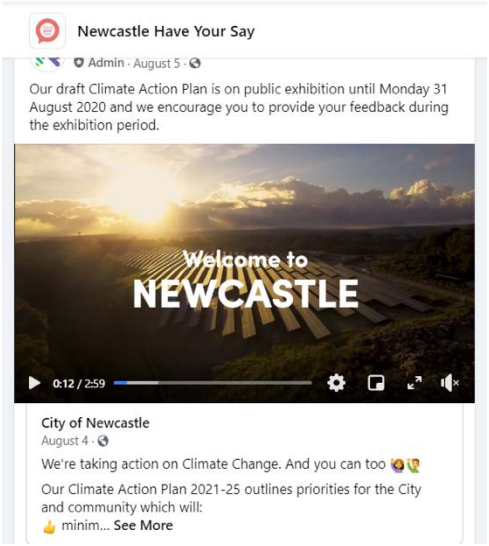
Have your say webpage

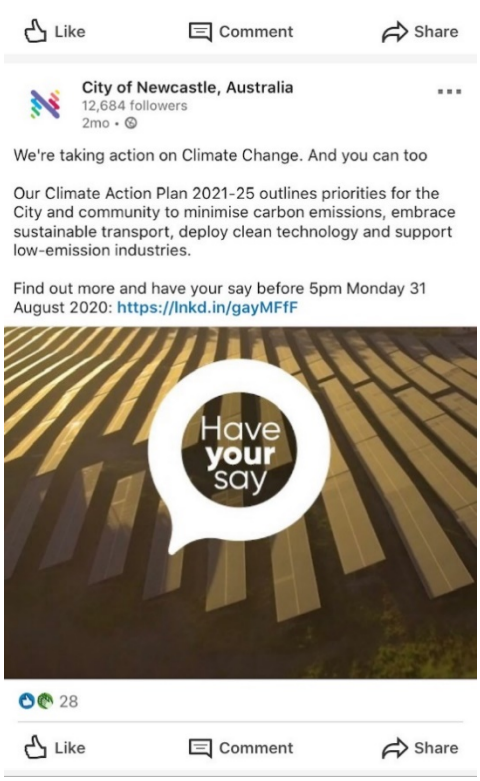


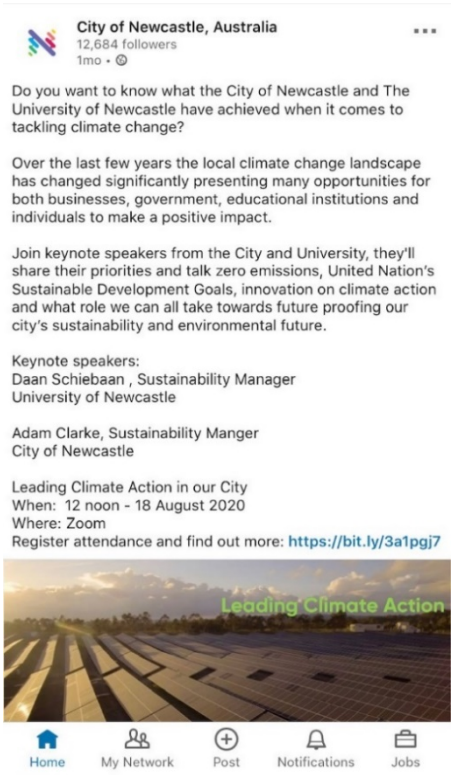
Digital advertising/advertorial

Social media

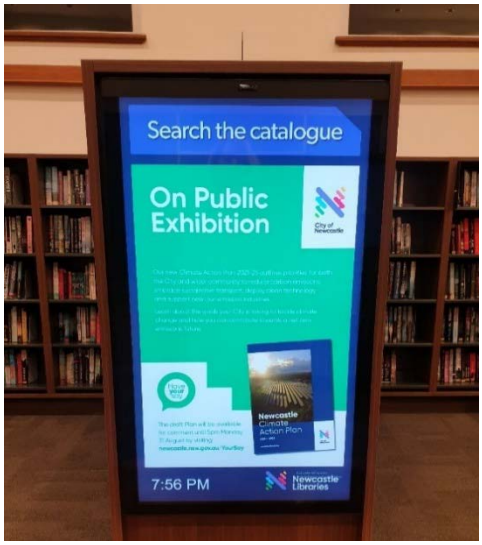




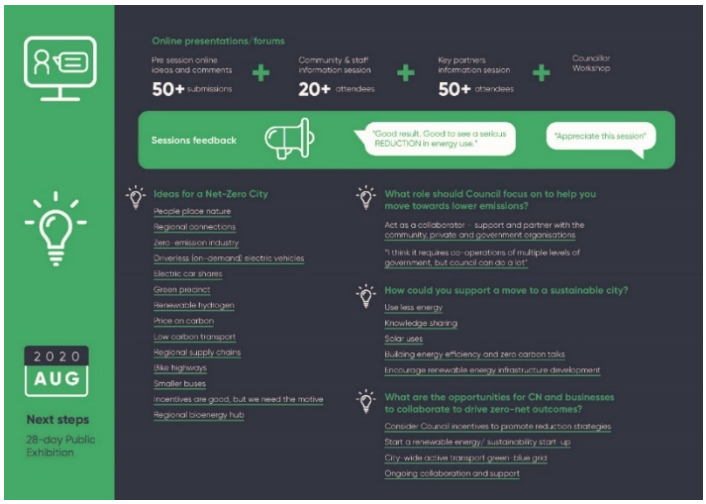




Digital displays



Engagement snapshot infographic



Media release

Media release

City of Newcastle

29 July 2020

Council gives preliminary tick to new climate action plan

City of Newcastle will lead the way to a net zero emissions future by reducing greenhouse gasses while implementing a range of environmental efficiencies under a five-year action plan endorsed for public exhibition last night.

The *Newcastle Climate Action Plan 2021-25* outlines priorities for the City and community to minimise carbon emissions, embrace sustainable transport, deploy clean technology and support low-emission industries.

The plan proposes to reduce fuel use by transitioning to electric vehicles, increasing battery storage to lessen the City's reliance on the electricity grid, cutting emissions via LED lighting replacements and building upgrades, and encouraging development of sustainable buildings.

Over the next five years the plan will specifically target:

- A 20 per cent reduction in electricity use, based on 2019/20 consumption
- Replacing all lighting, including streetlights, with LED or the best alternative
- A 50 per cent reduction in fuel use, based on 2019/20 consumption
- A 50 per cent reduction in operational carbon emissions.

"Through strong and consistent actions to reduce our emissions, City of Newcastle is now recognised as one of Australia's leading local governments in terms of addressing climate change," Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes said.

"After achieving so much over the past five years, particularly by becoming the first NSW Council to be powered by 100 per cent renewable energy in January, our transformation will continue under this new plan.

"By supporting residents, business and industry to act more sustainably, encourage local resilience and build a circular economy, our sustained investment will propel the city towards a net zero emissions future. I encourage the community to have their say on the way forward during the public exhibition period of the Climate Action Plan."

The draft plan also covers better resource management, headlined by an organics processing facility at the Summerhill Waste Management Centre; recycling initiatives and infrastructure, use of more recycled products in construction, water-efficient technologies, community-owned renewables projects and solar garden innovation.

Community engagement on the new plan helped build on the 2020 Carbon Water Management Action Plan (CWMAP), which delivered a five-megawatt solar farm, rooftop solar panels, LED streetlights and a 100 per cent renewable energy deal.

Under the 2020 CWMAP, the City has:

- Reduced electricity usage by 17 per cent
- Upgraded 31 per cent of streetlights to LEDs

- Secured 100 per cent of electricity from renewable sources
- Reduced potable water usage by more than 8 per cent
- Slashed the City's carbon footprint by 77 per cent, excluding emissions from Summerhill Waste Management Centre
- Reduced liquid fuel use by 77 per cent

The draft 2025 Climate Action Plan will be available for comment from Tuesday 4 August until 5pm Monday 31 August by visiting www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/YourSay

Appendix II – Submission Feedback

The following verbatim responses have been categorised by submissions that either indicated that they supported the overall intent of the draft 2025 CAP or did not. The form asked respondents to select either 'Yes' or 'No'. In several instances an respondent selected 'No', however the respondent also provided an additional response indicating they supported the Plan by wanting stronger targets or more immediate action.

Positive sentiment

Do you have any feedback on the proposed Targets?
Summerhill emissions need to be estimated and included in the plan to provide an effective baseline.
Support: - 2030 or sooner for Net Zero Emissions for CN ops. - 50% reduction in CN carbon emissions for 2025 CAP Also calling for: - Net zero city-wide goal by 2030 - a 50% reduction or 2025 progressive target for the whole city target based on carbon budgeting to Net Zero by 2030 - Summerhill Waste Management Centre emissions to not be omitted from CN emissions totals - Support for Hunter councils and businesses to diversify the away from coal mining and exports in any way possible
We need to be more ambitious
Appropriate targets
Targets to be met Zero by 2030 are ambitious but achievable for scope 1 and 2 sources, however scope 3 - taking supply chains into account will require industry engagement and likely offsetting
Yes, I think the targets for council's operations seem good but there are almost no targets or initiatives to assist the city as a whole to reduce emissions. This urgently needs to be addressed. The solutions are all out there- we don't need to investigate the possibilities for the next 5 years. We need to figure them out over the coming months and then work towards clear but ambitious targets over the life of this plan.
The targets seem about right, you would not want to reduce them.
the lower the better
I support the ambitious targets.
Looks great, and as a user of the EV charging, it's evident that CoN understands the future possibilities electrified transport offers.
The targets are ambitious but achievable, and the minimum required if the Paris goals are to be met.
YES – the targets need to be NET COUNCIL-WIDE EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGETS that will cut our Council area's emissions to ZERO by 2030 – NOT mere implementation targets (% renewable energy and so on).
I found the data on street light energy consumption to be particularly interesting, and reducing the amount of energy used by streetlights seems to, at least according to your data, be a great way to increase energy efficiency
All fine.
It's a good plan - but too limited. I forgot this on earlier brief submission: Council needs to take the lead on carbon accounting and emissions initiatives on a city-wide basis. City of Newcastle needs to take on a leading coordination role to help bring emissions down across the whole Newcastle. Good that you are updating to LED Big Time.

Do you have any feedback on the proposed Targets?
More works done on bringing all the Bike tracks together, and providing no links that don't involve mixing with cars.
Some targets around electric use in the LGA would be good.
With waste management such a large component, do the materiality of the targets represent the representative emissions?
Yes, it would be good to see specific targets, for example, when the tree canopy to cover a minimum of 60 per cent to provide shading and reduce urban heat island impact
The Council has been tracking really well. 2025 would be an achievable and aspirational target for net zero emissions from Council operations. 50% by 2025 is a great start, but I reckon we can do better. Net zero by 2030 at the least. Can't see why Summer Hill waste should be excluded from Council emissions.
I support the targeted: - 2030 or sooner for Net Zero Emissions for CN operations. - 50% reduction in CN carbon emissions for 2025 Climate Action Plan is promising and sets a good example. I would also like to see it supporting Hunter councils and businesses to diversify the away from coal mining and exports in any way possible
I wish the proposal used SMART indicators (specific, measurable, accountable, realistic, timeframe). I think a lot of the strategies seem vague, lacks specific steps needs to achieve them, and it will be difficult to measure success of the Action Plan in five years. Using the SMART indicators will hold the CN accountable for fulfilling the actions.
Achievable with ongoing funding.
Targets are appropriate.
I think it's fantastic, and I fully support CN aiming for net zero emissions
The proposed targets on page 15 of the draft Climate Action Plan are not ambitious enough and should go much further.
The sooner Net Zero and Carbon Neutral is achieved, the better we know our emissions. I'd highly recommend utilising carbon neutral suppliers/supply chains, keep the carbon auditing local too, use Australian based companies such as noco2.com.au (!).
I will only support it if it reduces ratepayer costs, NCC expenses and improves NCC efficiencies.
The targets are clear and concise. I especially agree with the waste targets and the proposed electric vehicles.
I think that striving to become a sustainable city is the best plan possible for any city.
Absolutely fantastic, fully support all the hard work you're doing to reduce emissions!
Ensure total expenses (TOTEX) and resourcing liabilities included in the strategy. Ensuring the whole of asset life is included (incl disposal)
Firstly, I want to say well done on all the work and achievements over the last decade. I want to provide feedback that without staff like [redacted], [redacted] and [redacted] who are passionate about what they do, what has been achieved so far wouldn't be possible. I was the counterpart at LMCC for ~8 years and was always

Do you have any feedback on the proposed Targets?
very impressed by what such a small team of dedicated staff could achieve in terms of attracting funding and rolling out programs. Please continue to support and empower your staff. [redacted] I am very supportive of net zero corporate emissions as soon as feasible and no later than 2030. I would like to see some more targets and definitive planning specific to the large business sector who consume on average 20 times more than small business and residential and would presumably make up a large chunk of the 70% attributable to business emissions
Yes, largely. I would like to see the City of Newcastle (CN) achieve a community target of net zero emissions in2030 rather than 2040. There are many organisations already established with a large volunteer base that may be able to assist here, including: Climate Action Newcastle [redacted] Beyond Zero Emissions (Hunter Region chapter - [redacted] and [redacted]); Newcastle Climate Change Response ([redacted]); Transition Newcastle ([redacted]); Permaculture Hunter ([redacted]).
Yes Climate Action Newcastle supports: - 2030 or sooner for Net Zero Emissions for CN operations. - 50% reduction in CN carbon emissions for 2025 Climate Action Plan is promising and sets a good example. Climate Action Newcastle also calling for: - Net zero city-wide by 2030 - a 50% reduction or 2025 progressive for the whole city target based on carbon budget Net Zero by 2030 - Summerhill Waste Management Centre emissions to not be omitted from CN emissions reporting
YES (but it needs some work) YES: The Plan needs to include Council-wide emissions reduction targets, not mere implementation targets (e.g. % renewable energy). We need to achieve net zero CO2e emissions city-wide (including business, residential, education & Summer Hill, and including gas) by 2030, which means a cut of 3.84 million tonnes (Council's current city-wide emissions, assuming those 2008 figures are still correct of course. We note the out of date nature of the figures included) plus emissions from natural gas (which are omitted from the Plan entirely).
Yes Overall the plan is comprehensive with realistic targets covering a diversity of Council's activities, and for this, Council should be applauded. Real leadership in this area is being shown.

Mixed sentiment

Do you have any feedback on the proposed Targets?
Too ambitious and a financial burden on rate payers that is not needed at this time.
Can we see financial reporting? Targets are nice, results must however be measured in lower life cycle operating costs. Have the electric power operating costs been measured to date? What is the operating life of PV panels and 1MW battery bank? Let's see the measured capital and operating cost data in due course, suggest an annual report. Don't forget to capitalise the 10 yearly major expense allocated to replacement batteries and PV panels.

Do you have any feedback on the proposed Targets?
CoN should stick to parks, local roads and governance of developments. Stay out of the environment folly
One hundred percent renewable energy proposal will cost rate payers a lot of extra money that could be better spent elsewhere. When you achieve 100% of your primary goals of safe roads, waste disposal, park-lands and libraries then you can reduce our rates.
There needs to be more information on how long solar panels and wind systems are made, where they are made and who makes them. What do you do with the waste when they reach their use by date as these systems do not last forever and how do you propose to support those industries who need more power than these systems provide. What future employment options will be available and how will you support apprenticeships?
Whilst the targets sounds good, they cannot be supported until the costs to achieve the targets are known.
They are useless unless the rest of the world falls in line. We alone cannot achieve the targets necessary.
They are most definitely NOT sustainable, where are the feasibility studies, where are the long term employment projections? This is an irresponsible advocation of rate payers funds....and a violation of the Foreign Influence Act.
Do you have any feedback on the proposed timeframe to achieve Net Zero Emissions for CN?
Support: - 2030 or sooner for Net Zero Emissions for CN operations. - 50% reduction in CN carbon emissions for 2025 Climate Action Plan Also calling for: - City of Newcastle to go further with whole-of-city initiatives and to drive a more urgent zero emissions program in the broader community, including business sectors -Net zero city-wide by 2030
Appropriate timeline
As soon as possible! 2025 is realistic but anything sooner is even better
2030 net zero is ambitious but achievable for scope 1 and 2, scope 3 is a larger challenge for both measurement and reduction and is likely to require offsetting preferable with projects that support biodiversity within the Hunter Valley
Again, there are almost no timeframes for the city- especially business as it is identified as the major contributor to emissions, but also residential, transport, waste.
The five year plan is appropriate given the ultimate goal of net zero emissions by 2030. The next five years may bring new technology that will hasten the transmission.
The faster the better
It makes sense and is consistent with current science and (arguably) policy.
should be earlier.
Seems to be well envisioned and evidenced.
Time frames are consistent with Paris agreement and recognition of a climate emergency. However, there should be more 'backcasting' from these deadlines to identify what actions are required now and in the next five years to meet the 2030 and 2040 goals.

Do you have any feedback on the proposed Targets?
What's the plan to provide the businesses and people of Newcastle alternatives? Natural gas? More solar development? Wind?
YES. To be consistent with the action scientists & policy experts tell us are needed for climate safety#, our Council area's total emissions need be NET ZERO BY 2030. This means a diversification into alternatives that will reduce emissions by net 3.84 million tonnes by 2030. Beyond an aspirational diagram (Chart 10), Council's Climate Action Plan does currently do that. #ClimateWorks Australia, 2020, Decarbonisation Futures: Solutions, actions and benchmarks for a net zero emissions Australia.
2030 seems a good, achievable target for 100% renewables, and Council is to be commended for this initiative.
Sooner the better obviously, time is running out
Council has broader influence than their own emissions. An aspirational target like net zero by 2025 sets an excellent example for the broader community and will show residents that Council is committed to a future for all people. A Climate Emergency has been declared, we need to act like this through both communication and actions.
It is a good step. I would also like to see: - City of Newcastle to go further with whole-of-city initiatives and to drive a more urgent zero emissions program in the broader community, including business sectors -Net zero city-wide by 2030
Achievable with continued support from Federal, State and Local Government.
Net zero emissions by 2030 is ambitious, however it appears to be technically and economically feasible for Scope 1 and 2 emissions; more difficult for Scope 3 emissions.
I think this timeframe is ambitious, whilst also being realistic. Some may say it's not ambitious enough, but having looked into renewable and battery storage for myself and my business, I do understand that while these technologies are emerging, they're not a silver bullet.
This question is misleading, as the timeframe only refers to net zero emissions for City of Newcastle operations. Consideration should also be given to how zero emissions from new buildings and infrastructure can be achieved, and how the City can support carbon neutral development.
The sooner the better, consider this blog here - https://noco2.com.au/enviro/we-should-all-be-net-zero-in-2020-not-2050/
Current technologies and infrastructure will not enable it to occur with beneficial cost savings to NCC and it's residents in the next 5 years. It is currently a false economy.
I think CN have done a magnificent job of becoming the first NSW council to use 100% renewable energy sources. Achieving these further goals in five years is going to be hard work but the sooner the better. Way to go CN!
I would like it sooner
I mean, as fast as humanly possible is always good, if there is any way to accelerate the timeframe, please do it!
Improved planning

Do you have any feedback on the proposed Targets?
Any actions that require funding staff time only and can have immediate impacts in terms of changes to development in the City should be implemented immediately. All other actions should be implemented as soon as economically feasible.
I would like to see the CN's target of net zero emissions moved forward to 2025 rather than 2030, in a similar manner to the University of Newcastle.
Wish it could be sooner! I feel that this sort of initiative has to be advanced really quickly, there is no time to waste.
Climate Action Newcastle supports: - 2030 (or sooner) for Net Zero Emissions for CN operations. - 50% reduction in CN carbon emissions for 2025 Climate Action Plan Climate Action Newcastle also calling for: - Net zero City-wide target by 2030 - ambitious, and aligned with intent of the climate emergency declaration - a progressive 2025 target based on carbon budget of Net Zero by 2030 - Strengthening of Statement on Page 21 for CN to take a lead role in the accounting and management of the emissions from the LGA e.g. Establishing a City Carbon Budget program and Auditing Office to support the city managing a faster transition to net zero e.g. to the Oslo Climate Budget which is reviewed annually and guided by data on the city's biggest emissions sources https://www.c40knowledgehub.org/s/article/Oslo-s-Climate-Budget-2019 On Net zero by 2030 City-wide Target, and interim 2025 Target: 'moon-shot' time is now With 2.5% of Newcastle's emissions (inc. waste) coming from CN council operations, CN can set a good example, however the 2025 Climate Action Plan needs a city-wide target and more detail and urgency on how CN will help drive down the 97.5% of emissions from the rest of the Newcastle LGA - especially in light of the escalating climate emergency and noting that City of Newcastle has made a Climate Emergency declaration. Net Zero Emissions by 2040 for the whole LGA is discussed on Page 22 CAP: "A study of emission reduction pathways to 2040 shows that through grid decarbonisation, increased use of onsite renewable energy and transitioning transport to electric options, a Net Zero Emissions Newcastle is within reach." However the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report recommends carbon neutrality / Net Zero by 2030 to stay under 1.5 degrees warming – for all sectors. More ambition and solutions must be found for 2030. City of Newcastle the best organisation in the LGA for a lead role in city emissions management. It is recognised that council does not have jurisdictional control over the operations of each entity in the LGA, and that many cooperative initiatives with other agencies have been flagged in the Newcastle 2025 Climate Action Plan. Yet, setting higher ambition with a well-resourced and energetically promoted program of net zero city-wide by 2030 will help to shift a broad lasses faire culture of complacency and drive an urgent program of aspiration and innovation. We appreciate CN sees a role here and would like to see more focus on identifying specific city-wide measures to meet the climate challenge in practise. City of Newcastle is the best-placed organisation to bring together all sectors of the Newcastle LGA to closely examine the entire city's carbon footprint, and to identify where the highest impacts can be made in implementation - regardless of operational jurisdiction. Cooperation with other government bodies and private business will be par for the course.

Do you have any feedback on the proposed Targets?
YES: As above, to be consistent with actions that are to have a 2/3 chance of the Earth staying below 1.5 degrees C of warming above pre-industrial levels1, Council's target needs to be Net Zero Emissions by 2030, citywide.

Do you have suggestions on how CN can work with the community to support the transition to a net zero emission City?
Work with Hunter Councils to set up Regional Energy Hub/Community Power Hub in Newcastle to bring communities together to develop locally-owned and cost-effective renewable energy projects https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/Grants-and-funding/Community-power-hubs Summerhill organics processing to produce biogas/biomethane through anaerobic digestion that is then used to offset Natural Gas usage by local industry in LGA Remove mandatory requirement for a gas connection in new developments
I think suburb'ed based workshops on Climate Change could work. Showing 'rate payers' how to achieve change.
Also calling for: - Rapid scale-up of dual direction cycleways along major city routes aimed at commuters and displacing every-day car travel. Liaise with Cycle Safe network in design. - Energy grants and incentives run by CN and active promotion of NSW and other programs. - Bulk solar and energy storage rounds by CN – monitoring and auditing tools available at the Library. e.g. Borrow an energy meter and bring back your readings for Lean in Newy Points. https://www.leaninnewy.com.au/
Continue to demonstrate leadership and engage collaboratively and transparently.
Focus on low income communities; it's harder to reduce emissions when your focus is on surviving economically
A regional approach supported by state governments and surrounding Councils is required to support transitions in particular regard to transport and low emission urban development
More details about the aforementioned panel.
Local government don't have control over what the residential and business sectors do in our city but we can use a number of positive encouragement and education tools to lead the way over the next critical years. All of CN communications can be talking about our targets and our progress to achieving them. All of our residents can play a role in their homes or business to work together to achieve our net zero goal.
Increase the community's understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals through setting up a community SDG network or groups in the community. Increase staff resources dedicated to engaging with the community around sustainability and the actions they can undertake within their own homes and communities to reduce their environmental footprint.
financial incentives for uptake of green energy (e.g. PV installation), e.g through rate reduction, mandating use of roofspace for PV or gardens (like in France), select a few reliable and value-for-money PV providers to gine CoN residents access to wholesale prices, discourage sale of products or packaging that difficult or unable to be reused or recycled, balance between high-density housing and high quality greenspace

Do you have suggestions on how CN can work with the community to support the transition to a net zero emission City?
Keep doing what you're doing!
Make Newcastle into a forest city.
Continue to lead by example as you now. Thank you.
I think a city-wide advisory group should be established and resourced by Council to help initiate and drive actions across the community, as well as providing community knowledge and expert advice to Council. The group could include residents, the University, scientists, business, government etc.
Offering grants to local businesses to encourage use of renewable energy.
YES. Broader and more committed engagement with business to facilitate carbon neutral electricity, transport and other transitions from this, our city's most polluting sector.
It's a difficult policy area for Council, with our city focus on coal exports, but I thought there might have been some comment from Council about inherent dangers from the fertiliser storage on Kooragang.
Needs a permanent Community engagement presence on any Council working groups. Not just Paid govt staff and Councillors / politicians
There is a lot of good work being done by CN, but a lot of people are not aware of this. Communication is the key.
Support community power programs modelled by companies such as Enova. Food waste programs like Lake Macquarie offers. I've run out of time, but there are plenty. Regenerative practices on ALL of Council owned or maintained greenspace. Assistance for groups trying to defend our coast against seismic testing, we need those phytoplankton and soil mychorriza to sequester our carbon.
It would be good for CoN to work with various suburbs and community groups to look at suburb wide solar power projects that could be supported by the community and CoN including installations on coN owned buildings
- Promote cycling to make Newcastle streets safer for cyclists, eg through scaling up dual direction cycleways along major city routes aimed at commuters. Liaise with Cycle Save network in design. - Bulk solar and energy storage rounds by CN - discounted solar panels, battery storage and energy efficient appliances for low-income households - Energy management education and assistance
City Of Newcastle demonstrate our commitment by Championing this initiate. All plant, vehicles and powered tools to be powered non conventional means ie coal powered electricity and fuels. As Coordinator within Parks Services our area is keen to implement such changes.
Joint projects with community groups to establish community renewable energy systems and bulk buying groups for renewable energy and energy efficiency products.
I think it's important to create incentives for households and businesses to adopt (good quality) solar. It's really a 'no brainer' for most households and businesses, with a typical payback of 4-5 years (who wouldn't want an investment that returns 20%pa!). But there is a lack of knowledge and understanding about the benefits of solar, so any initiatives to improve knowledge/incentivise people will help us all as a city lower our emissions.

Do you have suggestions on how CN can work with the community to support the transition to a net zero emission City?
Provide financial incentives to encourage zero carbon emission new development, including embodied energy, carbon offsets, and zero carbon emission operations.
Support existing carbon neutral companies such as these here - http://lowcarboneconomy.com.au/ support local businesses/communities to become Carbon Neutral too.
CN should allow it's employees who can (and want to) work from home to do so, thereby reducing carbon emissions, traffic congestion and parking issues
Negotiate a coal levy from the mining industry and utilise that money to significantly improve infrastructure, city amenities, and help position it as a zero emission city. The coal exported from Newcastle harbour will need to be excluded from your calculations or else you will have to negative emissions.
More programs to assist individuals and businesses with becoming more sustainable
Encourage recycling! Plant fruit trees. Have community veggie gardens. Provide the community with reusable produce bags. Introduce wind power and solar panels. Plant more trees wherever possible.
Potentially CN could come up with a portfolio of carbon sequestration projects within the LGA that contribute to employment, especially for our Indigenous community and those who worked in the mining sector. CN could then enlist participation in the sequestration projects of the big energy consumers in the LGA to reduce their emissions. If Council wants someone else to own and run these projects, perhaps they can do the EOI for a site and concept that Council has given development pre-approval for. For example, an algae farm on a section of the Hunter River receives development approval and an invitation for an EOI is issued for someone to run the farm. Other Cities (see Seattle) have brought in a Living Building Challenge clause to their Development Controls whereby projects that target Living Building Challenge status are allowed flexibility when it comes to floor space ratio, building height etc. CN could do the same within certain limits of the controls. I would like to see Darby St and Beaumont St become plastic free. I want to support local businesses but I hate the take away packaging! I know other Councils have achieved plastic free areas so there is no reason we can't. I would also like to see a BAN on plastic plants being used in commercial refurbishments (see the new Marketown refurb). It's tacky, contributes to poor IEQ because of all the VOCs and will ultimately end up in landfill. I am aware that the actual use of recycled plastic is dismal - how can Council change this? Can Council take the plastic waste they collect and turn it into chips for use as a feedstock by any business? If successful, Council could start charging for it. I know Council is limited what it can require residential developments to do and it is not supposed to be more than BASIX requires. However, Council did get around this with water tanks and storm water requirements. Could Council not do the same for Urban Heat Island effect and require all new residential developments to have solar panels, a green roof or be a light colour? Council could work with Hunter Water and where large developments meet the water requirements of the Living Building Challenge, Hunter Water could refund their sewage and stormwater connection fees. I'm not sure what these are for large developments but I know in the US, some projects have said such incentives halved the payback time of their net zero water systems to under four years. Any new subdivision should be built according to the Living Community Challenge and incentives could be given by Council to achieve this.

Do you have suggestions on how CN can work with the community to support the transition to a net zero emission City?
Tap into the enormous potential of the University and its research funding to achieve on the ground projects
CN could: 1. minimise the material ending up in landfill by developing programs: • to support organisations to create second-hand businesses to repair and resell goods, • to support the right to repair articles e.g. smartphones, • to support "Repair Cafes", perhaps at community halls, along the lines of "Reverse Garbage" in Marrickville where people help to fix their broken items for a donation, and • returning to the approach of leaving waste on the kerb each month, so that businesses and residents can benefit from this. The benefits of these programs would be to minimise material ending up in landfill, by: ▪ supporting Novacastrians in developing skills to fix broken items, ▪ repairing items to sell as second-hand products, and ▪ generating employment with opportunities to run the busiss, including on social enterprise principles employing those who may have disabilities. 2. The council could support Energy Freedom Home workshops from Beyond Zero Emission. These encourage householders to change their behaviour, implement retrofits, upgrade appliances and install solar power to lower energy bills and carbon emissions and improve comfort.3. The council should support more initiatives to lower transport emissions, by encouraging: ▪ higher patronage e.g. by including public transport passes for all employees; ▪ better local integration of public transport systems (train, tram, bus, ferry - timetables and routes) ▪ placing bike racks on all public transport vehicles (either externally or in dedicated spaces inside), and ▪ lobbying the state government not to charge additional fees for taking a bike with you on public transport.4. The council could also work with industry, and create various types of industrial ecology parks like the Williamtown Special Activation Precinct (SAP) in the LEP, for certain industries that can benefit from the waste of others as feedstocks or energy or other inputs e.g. steel recycling for waste steel coupled with electric arc furnaces, and including organisations with waste heat and waste water.
More community-led local food security initiatives, organic waste management. Self-sufficiency is an important component of sustainable cities. Already use community waste infrastructure initiatives like the Darby st community garden, but bins fill up really quickly! Needs to be more frequent and/or scaled up because I think the community is really into and interested in doing more. I'd like to see more/better cycle lanes for more usage - I understand it is also an infrastructure issue but also a big driver for sustainability/behaviour change I'm also really interested in Community based/owned renewable energy systems to be a part of and in turn making it easier for renters (and landlords) to be able to ask for and be appropriately rebated for solar energy and other substantial energy saving measures.
CAN Support - all proposed CN operational Actions. - all proposed city-wide Actions Also calling for Public Engagement Actions: - Proactive communications with local climate advocacy groups e.g. Climate Action Newcastle - Live engagement to focus city on carbon-emission task - Town Hall Forums Town Hall Forums / Reference Panels / Live 'events that bring the City together to look at the climate challenge - including Community and Business – this could be the same as the UN SDG Task Force coordinated by NSW Govt. Currently there is no City-led climate forum nor proactive out-reach on climate from CN to active local advocacy groups such as Climate Action Newcastle. - Re-engagement with Stakeholders per the emphasis in Newcastle 2020 Carbon and Water Management

Do you have suggestions on how CN can work with the community to support the transition to a net zero emission City?
Action Plan - Stakeholders (see Page 11) - Carbon Expo – run with community groups like Climate Action Newcastle's former Smart Energy Expo showcasing: - all government incentives and programs - solar and energy storage providers - micro-grid and systems start ups - community energy advocates - Carbon Neutral Awards eg Adelaide https://www.carbonneutraladelaide.com.au/ - footprint analysis - efficiency and offsets that align with United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals - carbon neutral certification under the Australian Department of the Environment and Energy's voluntary National Carbon Offset Standard (NCOS) Also calling for city-wide Transport Actions: - Rapid implementation of a comprehensive dual direction cycleways along major city routes aimed at commuters and every-day travel. Liaise with Cycle Save network in design. - Councillor and staff air travel emissions to be specifically calculated. Given the high impact of air travel on climate change this should be quantified, included in the Plan and reduced by replacements such as virtual meetings, even after Covid restrictions ease. Also calling for city-wide Clean Technology Actions: - Energy grants and incentives run by CN and active promotion of NSW and other programs. - Carbon neutral certification, performance ratings and auditing service subsidised for business and community - Bulk solar and energy storage rounds by CN - discounted solar panels, battery storage and energy efficient appliances - Proactive energy on education management \ and assistance to inform the community and businesses about energy bill reduction and solar power – monitoring and auditing tools available at the Library. e.g. Borrow an energy meter and bring back your readings for Lean in Newy Points. https://www.leaninnewy.com.au/ e.g. https://reductionrevolution.com.au/ to show insulation gaps and inefficiencies in central gas heating, draughty fireplaces, gaps in the floorboards, and unsealed wall vents. - Proactive energy on education management \ and assistance to inform the community and businesses about energy bill reduction and solar power Also calling for city-wide Waste and Landfill Actions - Phased-in Ban on single-use plastics in LGA - Improved compliance and standards on large event waste management: e.g. ban the 1 km of black plastic on fencing screens thrown away each year at Wickham Park music festivals - Repair cafes – CN support land or buildings. Initially volunteer staffed limited days, then longer as more popular. eg Reverse Garbage Marrickville. - 2nd hand shop at Summerhill Waste Management Centre - Kerb-side auditing and residential compliance using council by-laws, camera technology, a warning system, fines and large bin stickers for significant and repeated contamination. - Rate reduction for less frequent general waste pick-ups – investigate how to managed and track - planning scheme amendments and new guidelines for home builders to facilitate solar power

Do you have suggestions on how CN can work with the community to support the transition to a net zero emission City?
installation and energy efficiency improvements. - Lobbying via Local Government Association and other networks for Right to Repair Legislation and a ban on gadgets can't be opened, or that break in attempts to repair
YES: Cultural & fiscal incentives to business to get those business emissions DOWN. Compulsory reporting; awards, recognition & rate cuts for those that do the right thing; seminars & support for those that are still learning how (see for example the Hunter SDG Taskforce and the Carbon Neutral Adelaide Awards https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/cna-public-assets/general-downloads/Carbon-Neutral-Adelaide-Awards_Booklet_2019.pdf.); a climate safe procurement & tender policy & more charging points for commercial (& private) electric vehicles.
1. Promote the use of NABERS accredited assessors to rate office buildings, shopping centres, apartment buildings, hotels and public hospitals. NABER's ratings have shown the ability to reduce energy consumption of participating buildings over an extended time-frame. Many of the city's apartment blocks are managed by the same strata or building manager firms. This provides scope for a handful of apartment buildings to lead the way in demonstrating energy reduction measures recommended by NABER's assessors. 2. Consider partnering with Better Building Finance, to implement Environmental Upgrade Agreements - this would encourage building owners to make upgrades to save energy, water and waste whether they are owner occupiers or tenanted. 3. Set a target for the expansion of the light-rail into Mayfield and Lambton to reduce car dependency. 4. Encourage shopping precincts with outdoor carparks to install solar panel shading (rather than straight shading devices like at Mayfield Woolworths). 5. Expand your Natural Connections Team to offer a wider variety of activities, both free and paid. Suggestions for information sessions include introduction to composting, improving the energy efficiency of your house / home energy audits, birdscaping your garden, creating a low-water use garden etc. 6. Continue / expand your street tree program as this has both biodiversity and amenity benefits as well as providing shading to surrounding homes (which then reduces the heat loading / aircon use of nearby buildings). 7. As I am sure you will have found, promoting sustainable activities can attract negative feedback and resistance. Promoting the ongoing cost savings of the various measures as well as the improved liveability of the city may be a more prudent way of 'selling' the net-zero goal to the community rather than from a purely environmental perspective. 8. Consider changes to the red bin sizes, pricing and frequency of collection across the LGA. For example, going to a fortnightly red-bin collection with a significant price differential between a 240L and a 120L red bin. 9. From personal observations, the BASIX system appears prone to 'gaming':- pre-wiring for down-lights (to be installed after the occupancy certificate is issued) but showing only CFL or LED's on the DA, landscaping plans which bear little resemblance to what is actually planted, and other discrepancies between water & energy saving measures shown on the plan vs what is actually installed. More rigorous verification of projects either through spot-checks, compliance audits or other enforcement methods is needed to realise the savings that BASIX aims to achieve. 10. Collaborate with Hunter Water to promote regular cleaning of residential water tank inlet filters as these are prone to scumming over, drastically reducing water capture. 11. Conduct a feasibility study into point to point 'public' transport bus services targeted at RAAF

Do you have suggestions on how CN can work with the community to support the transition to a net zero emission City?
Williamtown staff. It is a 45km+ round trip from Newcastle suburbs to RAAF Williamtown, and with 3500+ staff working on base there is an opportunity to reduce CO2 related transport emissions. Whilst there is a bus route servicing the commercial side of the airport, there are no public transport offerings that go to the RAAF side of the base. Are there residential districts in CN with high concentrations of RAAF personnel (eg Newcastle / Honeysuckle) to make a bus service feasible? The traffic flows in and out of the base during the morning and afternoon implies that there are common start and finish times for a large proportion of the staff that bus departures could be targeted at.

Do you have any other feedback on the Plan?
Climate Emergency is briefly mentioned in the mayor's message. It needs to be front and centre in an About this plan. See Moreland Council's words in their CAP. https://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/globalassets/key-docs/zero-carbon-moreland---climate-emergency-action-plan-2020-21----2024-25_.pdf
Support - all proposed CN operational Actions. Esp.. energy storage and load management: Also calling for: - Action 5.9 Increase resources to scale up street tree, parkland, disused public lands plantings - Action 5.1 Add passive design features to DCP for building performance enhancement - Incentivise builders engaging Council Building Certifiers to ensure stronger compliance with BASIX - Promote NSW Environmental Upgrade Agreements
Thank you for taking a leadership position on this issue of critical importance to the prosperity and livability of our region and beyond.
It is well thought out and clear
North Lambton as a trial suburb? From 5.10 of the plan.
Could we talk to beyond zero emissions about their plans? We need a clear plan for rolling out EV infrastructure- we have an electric vehicle council in Australia that could advise council on how that should look. Environment upgrade agreements for businesses should be considered as should any of the ideas from the council's previous climate plans that were discontinued but still have merit. Energy/Water and waste audits could be carried out at business and residential properties
I congratulate NCC on developing a Climate Action Plan.
I particularly like the focus on microgrids, stricter building codes circular economy
Newcastle council should determine and publish its greenhouse gas emissions. The process of calculating these should be determined by an independent authority and adopted by all councils.
Looks good.
A good framework, but Council must include Summerhill in its operational carbon budget. As well, there needs to be a much stronger suite of actions proposed to reduce city-wide emissions as at least a 25% reduction in this Plan to meet the 2040 carbon neutral target, and probably more than 25% as it is usually the easiest things that get done first.

Do you have any other feedback on the Plan?
Why is the government not already utilising Gas generation at Summerhill? This is not new technology. What other alternatives to landfill have been considered? Incineration to electricity?
YES. 1. BUSINESS EMISSIONS: In our Council area 70-83%+ of emissions originate from business: cutting these MUST be a more major, funded, detailed part of the Plan. 2. A FAST & JUST TRANSITION IN THE HUNTER: Council must join other Hunter councils in taking on a much greater role in diversification away from coal mining, burning and exports in our region. Council has proved it can cut is own (operational) emissions: it must now work with others in the region to get us out of coal.
I think the Bykko bikes are too expensive, and that given the largely flat areas where the bikes are available, using less expensive, lighter and 100% green push bikes would be a better plan.
Wondering if consideration should be given to re-jigging the school/education aspect of Council's activities, which served the two purposes of reducing school-based waste and emissions, AND more importantly, getting young people attuned to Council's work in this area.
Incentivising private electric vehicle purchase and use would be great. How about offering a parking fee discount for electric vehicles? Using the Easypark platform could be an option?
Fugitive emissions - projects relating to minimising these emissions are not mentioned in actions
The mentioning of a Pandemic without any proper referencing does not make sense. (when I checked the actual reference there was no mention of a pandemic in there. My other point would be to cancel the Supercars race, as this is a very counter-intuitive event when you want to reduce our carbon footprint.
massive cultural collateral potential to lead the way. Council emissions pale to those produced by businesses within the local area. Council should use every ability to leverage their cultural capital, along with tangible influence on building requirements including strategies like annual and energy audits to gain progressive movement by business towards targets. Carrot and stick could be applied here. Applaud good, make known poor with no reason, support business to move to green power
One industry in Newcastle emits very large volumes of CO2 (ammonia production) and large amounts of N20 (nitrous oxide) which is a greenhouse gas that is 300 times more powerful greenhouse gas than CO2. This industry is Orica and CoN should approach Orica to discuss ways they can reduce or capture these emissions to reduce Newcastle LGA greenhouse gas emissions.
- Broader engagement with business sector to facilitate carbon neutral electricity, transport and other transitions - Action 5.9 - scale up Street Tree and parkland, vacant land planting - Action 5.1 Add passive design features to DCP for building performance enhancement - Incentivise builders engaging Council Building Certifiers to ensure stronger compliance with BASIX - CN Public support for the Port of Newcastle to diversify the export facilities of port beyond coal
It would also be interesting to see how the CN is adapting to climate change, while a focus on climate change mitigation strategies (reducing carbon emissions) is necessary, there also needs to be a focus on climate change adaptation strategies within the built environment. I would be interested to see what the City of Newcastle is doing in terms of ecological restoration/protection and strategies the city is doing to reduced urban heat island effect.
Excellant

Do you have any other feedback on the Plan?
Under the objective of zero transport emissions 4.1 - 4.6, two additional objectives should be added as follows - (1) "remove financial incentives provided to Council employees for private use of Council vehicles" and (2) encourage Council employee use of public transport by providing Opal cards or subsidising their use".
Overall this is indeed a very positive move and appreciative of any councils going forwards towards action plans related to climate change, renewable energy and carbon/emissions management procedures.
It is a fantastic aspirational goal, however I believe NCC resources would be better utilised focusing on attending to many of this things it has failed to do adequately in recent years such as repairs and maintenance to the roads, footpaths, handrails, parks etc in Newcastle, providing more frequent public transport etc.
I'm proud to be living in a city where the council is doing as much as it possibly can to tackle climate change. This is a huge undertaking but it's good to know that there are plans set in place.
Include whole of asset life in the proposed outcomes, not just the implementation costs Ensure all proposed solutions consider ongoing resourcing requirements, strategic risks and the sustainability drivers. Not just reducing greenhouse emissions.
Although I have said yes it would be helpful to see some cohesive push among councils towards addressing the coal fired power stations and coal ash dams along Lake Macquarie.
I have the following thoughts: New developments over a certain threshold should be targeting the Living Building Challenge - the most stringent sustainable building standard in the world.Can Council have more control over waste reduction through adjusting its rates accordingly and through requiring that all new apartment buildings provide feed stock to the organic waste facility being built? In Malmo, all apartment buildings collect their organics through in-sink waste systems into a tank which is then collected by a truck and sent to a biogas plant and turned into fuel to run the City's fleet. Can CN use their autonomous vehicle to provide a 'carpool' set up for Council staff (and potentially collect staff children from school and deliver to Council to be a more equitable employer) and demonstrate how this might work to other businesses? For example, if you use the autonomous vehicle you can claim half of your trip time as work time (as ultimately they can be working on their phones or networking with other staff from different departments). Have Council divested from all fossil fuel projects and companies? Including ensuring Local Government Super does not invest their employees super in such projects as ultimately it is fiscally irresponsible. Could a neighbourhood scale energy utility, particularly providing heating and cooling which account for ~50% of business energy consumption, be feasible? How can CN support (or fund) the development of geothermal and tidal energy projects and enable businesses to purchase this low emission energy?CN could ensure that all Council construction projects only use low energy concrete and steel. This may mean working with preferred suppliers to get them to install a heat recovery system at their plant or ensure a certain amount of recycled content going into their product. All Council Masterplans should be assessed against the Living Community Challenge imperatives. This is the most sustainable development metric in the world
Waste carbon emissions are large and ambiguously divided between the community, CN and other LGA communities. This is a state significant issue, and needs substantial programs to lower the waste ending

Do you have any other feedback on the Plan?
up in landfill. Programs could assist organisations to set up as second-hand businesses to repair and resell goods
Climate Action Newcastle supports - all proposed CN operational Actions. In particular innovation for energy storage and load management: 1.5. Investigate and install megawatt scale battery storage options to firm renewable supply and build resilience across CN operations 2.8 Investigate opportunities for trialling and demonstrating vehicle-to-grid (V2G) and other emerging technologies - all proposed city-wide Actions with a note on Hydrogen 5.14 Advocate for the creation of renewable hydrogen* and ammonia export hubs, a regional bioenergy hub and green metal and mineral processing in Newcastle. *Cautionary Note on hydrogen: A recent caution on promoting Hydrogen industries has been issued by eminent climate scientists, as outlined in The Conversation: https://theconversation.com/dont-rush-into-a-hydrogen-economy-until-we-know-all-the-risks-to-our-climate-140433 Climate Action Newcastle also calling for Business actions: - Broader and more committed engagement with the business sector to facilitate carbon neutral electricity, transport and other transitions from this most polluting sector in the LGA. - Action 5.1 Add passive design features to DCP for building performance enhancement - Action 5.9 Increase resources urgently for Street Tree plantings to mitigate urban heat and planting in all available passive open space for habitat enhancement and carbon sequestration - Incentivise builders engaging Council Building Certifiers to ensure stronger compliance with BASIX - Investigate a by-law to conduct spot inspections on BASIX compliance by Private Certifiers - Promote NSW Environmental Upgrade Agreements program to facilitate solar power installation and energy efficiency improvements. https://business.gov.au/Grants-and-Programs/Environmental-Upgrade-Agreements-NSW - Aerial rooftop audit of old air-conditioners -proactive engagement on safe decommissioning of GHGs - Gas & business emissions should be reporting throughout the plan and addressed The Newcastle emissions Climate Snapshot 2018-19 reports that 12.7 % of Newcastle's emissions are from Gas, and of this 90% is from the business sector. These Business Gas emissions should be reported throughout the plan, and CN initiatives identified to address this - whether together with other government departments, organisations or alone. - More emphasis on efficiency The replacement of energy sources from fossil fuels to renewable is useful to achieve targets, however not using energy and water in the first place will drive emissions down faster when added to green power options. Table 1. Progress against key targets on page 10. of the Climate Action Plan indicates that efficiency actions in the 2020 plan were all significantly behind target in reducing CN's electricity usage, potable water usage, and liquid fuel usage. Addressing these areas, and the particular focus on replacing vehicular liquid fuel use in the 2025 plan is noted and highly supported. - Business recognition and incentives programs e.g. CitySwitch Program (Adelaide, Sydney, Perth, Melbourne) - signatory recognition - rebate on the cost of a NABERS Energy rating. The rebate is 50 per cent of the cost of the assessment to a maximum value of $2,500.

Do you have any other feedback on the Plan?
- Annual reporting and Awards Program - Investigate business rates incentives / disincentives for emissions KPIs - Transparency and action on the emissions of the Top 20 Businesses: Noting that up to 83% of emissions in the Newcastle LGA come from business, this sector needs to be profiled in more detail, with transparent monitoring protocols on the largest emitters 20 emitters, and commitments for all businesses operating within the bounds of the Newcastle LGA to work cooperatively work the City and other government departments and organisations, or directly. e.g. NSW Sustainability Advantage. - Reporting on the Business Sector Aspirational Goals from the city's last 2020 Carbon and Water Action Plan is largely absent and would be very beneficial - even if not celebrating complete success. https://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/getmedia/b434c1a3-0034-4e46-a8f9-152b309dcaa3/FINAL_Carbon_Water_MAP_for_Web_secure.aspx The Goals are on Page 16. of the 2020 plan and are as follows: Business Sector Aspirational Goals - Top 20 Businesses By 2020 The City of Newcastle in partnership with the Top 20 Businesses is aiming for: 100% of businesses to commit to energy, water and waste reduction programs 100% of businesses to publicly report energy use, water use and water reduction against business and industry targets 5,000 new Clean Tech jobs to be created within the Hunter Region 100% of business to have sustainability ratings 50% of business source 20% or more of their energy from renewable sources (i.e. > 10% business' energy from renewable sources) Business Sector Aspirational Goals (excluding top 20) By 2020 The City of Newcastle in partnership with business is aiming for: 500 businesses to have implemented and reported against the ClimateCam Framework 50% of businesses that have implemented the ClimateCam Framework to have completed and energy efficiency upgrade 100% of businesses that have implemented the ClimateCam Framework to monitor their electricity consumption 80% of businesses to utilise recycling services 80% of businesses to have water efficient hardware Most of these are commitments and tracking measures, not emissions reduction targets on their own. However these goals are asking more of the Newcastle Business Sector than the current plan; and adequate reporting and transparent discussion of lessons learned on the 2020 Business Goals would be useful to inform future city-wide Business emissions measures. The only reporting of this Business section of the Newcastle 2020 Carbon and Water Management Action Plan is on Page 9 as follows: "CN also continued to run highly successful engagement programs, based on its 14-Step ClimateCam Framework. In collaboration with the Hunter Business Chamber and Hunter TAFE, CN delivered the Energy Hunter program to over 350 businesses across the Hunter Region, providing real time electricity monitoring, energy audits, workshops and assistance in developing energy efficiency projects. The program, which helped businesses reduce electricity use by 5.6 GWh and save over $1.1m in electricity savings each year, won the prestigious Climate Change Leadership Award at the NSW Government's Green Globe Awards." We would like more detail on the successes or outcomes of the 2020 Carbon and Water Action Plan program and request a 2020 report be included in the 2025 Plan. The Climate Cam and other 2020

Do you have any other feedback on the Plan?
projects received significant resourcing and investment by City of Newcastle and a fulsome review of outcomes and lessons learned is due.
YES: 1.Business emissions - Noting that in our council area 70-83% of emissions are from business (and mostly the top 20), cutting these must be a major, funded, detailed part of the plan (beyond the aspirational graph Chart 10, pathways for which are not detailed anywhere in the Plan!). 2.Council must take its unique opportunity to massively impact global emissions falling to safe levels by working with Councils & industry across the region to lead our fast & just transition away from coal mining & exports. When 2b tonnes of global CO2e emissions originate from our port, this MUST be part of Council's work plan. Council has proved with the Plan that it can cut its own emissions, but these were already tiny: to make real impact, we must also work to help get our region out of coal.
Council is currently left holding the proverbial hot potato in terms of dealing with single-use plastics & other 'waste' items from excess packaging etc. A long term and ongoing goal of Council should be to lobby state and Federal governments on reducing packaging, phasing out single-use plastic items and other sources of difficult to recycle 'recyclables'. At the moment, there is neither the technology to sufficiently sort 'recyclable' items nor the markets to take the recycled content to make into feedstock for new products. We need to realise that better recycling and less contamination will not solve our waste issues. Avoiding & reusing plastics need to be the goal as recycling is not a viable solution. Council advocacy and leadership on this issue is important. In relation to the introduction of FOGO bins, is Council aware of Goterra Farms who is a new entrant in food-waste processing. Whilst they are currently based in the ACT, their technology may provide an attractive solution for CN for processing food waste from the restaurant precincts & shopping centres (which are likely to require a more frequent collection service than the remainder of the LGA). Resulting compost from food-waste-only should possess a higher nutrient content and provides the potential for a premium product attracting higher returns than from FOGO processing. Additionally, is there potential for Council to re-coup some of their processing costs for FOGO by selling the resultant product to mines in the Hunter Valley to improve the water retention, survival and growth rates of their mine rehabilitation projects? The ACT Municipal Service partnered with the CSIRO to conduct a feasibility study for integrating their waterways to reduce their demand on mains-water supply. Would CN consider a similar process to identify synergies in relation to flood mitigation, stormwater handling, water quality improvements and stormwater recycling for sporting field irrigation and industrial activities, utilising the existing network of open-air storm-water drains. It is also very important for CN to share their lessons learnt so that other LGAs across Australia can benefit. It would be great to see CN regularly host a 'Sustainable Cities of the Future' conference, delivered by a combination of on-site gatherings and webinars involving council staff, industry bodies, technology and infrastructure providers as well as academics to share their latest research. Keep up the hard work and hopefully your sustainability actions can become embedded in Council's operations so they withstand the vagaries of Council elections and staffing changes!